Haruko Iida

Original Works By

Red Entertainment/Takamura Matsuda

Volume 5

TOKYOPOP

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Crescent Moon Vol. 5

Haruko Iida

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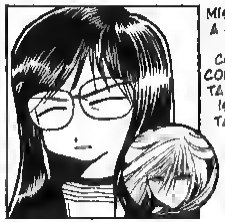
NOZOMU MOEGI
A VAMPIRE. DESPITE HIS BLOND HAIR AND BLUE EYES, HE SPEAKS WITH A KANSAI DIALECT. HE'S A SMOOTH TALKER AND LOVES THE LADIES

MITSURU SUOU
A TENGU. DUE TO HIS COMPLICATED UPBRINING, MITSURU DOESN'T JUST HATE THE HUMAN RACE. HE DESPISES AND DISTRUSTS THE LUNAR ONE, AS WELL



MISOKA ASAGI
A FOX DEMON. ALWAYS COOL, CALM, COLLECTED AND TACIT, MISOKA IS QUICK TO TAKE ACTION AND IS RESPECTED AS THE UNSPOKEN LEADER OF THE GROUP

AKIRA YAMABUKI
A WEREWOLF. A HAPPY GO LUCKY CHARACTER, AKIRA IS LOATHE TO DWELL ON ANYTHING THAT IS TOO SERIOUS, OR DEEP. FOR LONG. HE'S AN AWESOME CHEF

OBORO KUROSAKI
OWNER OF THE BAR MOONSHINE

KATSURA SHION
PIANIST FOR THE BAR MOONSHINE

SHIROGANE
RULER OF THE LUNAR RACE, AND CURRENT EMPEROR OF THE MOON. HE IS ALSO OBORO'S NEPHEW

KIMITERU KUSAKABE
A POLICE INSPECTOR INVESTIGATING THE MOONLIGHT BANDITS

YOUHEI NISHINO
DETECTIVE KUSAKABE'S SUBORDINATE. HE'S A POLICE SERGEANT

HOKUTO KOUDOKU
LEADER OF THE DEMON EXTERMINATION AND CAPTURING TROUPE THE DAWN'S VENUS

MUTSURU HAYASHI
A MEMBER OF THE DAWN'S VENUS

KEIKO HIMURA
A MEMBER OF THE DAWN'S VENUS. KEIKO HAS THE POWER OF PROPHECY. SHE IS ALSO ONE OF MAHIRU'S CLASSMATES

The Story So Far...

THE FOUR MYSTERIOUS YOUTHS WHO APPEAR BEFORE HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR MAHIRU SHIRAISHI AREN'T HUMAN. THEY'RE PART OF A PEOPLE CALLED THE LUNAR RACE, AND MEMBERS OF A RING OF THIEVES CALLED THE MOONLIGHT BANDITS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ALL THE BUZZ IN TOKYO. FROM THESE YOUTHS, MAHIRU LEARNS SHE IS THE DESCENDENT OF THE MINISTER OF THE LEFT'S PRINCESS, WHOSE ANCESTORS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR STEALING THE TEARS OF THE MOON MANY YEARS AGO. BECAUSE OF THIS HERITAGE, MAHIRU FINDS THAT SHE POSSESSES THE ABILITY TO DRAW OUT THE HIDDEN ABILITIES AND POWERS OF THE LUNAR RACE. ASKED BY THE FOUR TO ASSIST THEM IN THEIR QUEST TO RETURN THE TEARS OF THE MOON, MAHIRU MOVES IN WITH THE BANDITS TO LIVE AND WORK AT THEIR NIGHTCLUB, CALLED MOONSHINE. THROUGH THIS TIME SPENT WITH THEM, MAHIRU BEGINS TO MULL OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF BECOMING THE BRIDGE BETWEEN THE HUMAN RACE AND THE LUNAR RACE.

THEN IT IS DISCOVERED THAT ONE OF MAHIRU'S CLASSMATES, KEIKO, IS A MEMBER OF THE LUNAR RACE'S GREATEST NEMESIS, THE DAWN'S VENUS, AS KEIKO UNCOVERS THE TRUTH OF MAHIRU AND HER NEW FRIENDS, MAHIRU CAN'T BRING HERSELF TO BRAND KEIKO (WHO SUFFERS A STRAINED RELATIONSHIP WITH HER FIANCÉ, HOKUTO) THE ENEMY, WHILE AKIRA HAS DEVELOPED SPECIAL FEELINGS FOR KEIKO TOO. THIS ACCEPTANCE OF KEIKO BY MAHIRU AND AKIRA CREATES QUITE A RIFT BETWEEN THE MEMBERS OF THE MOONLIGHT BANDITS.

IN THE MIDST OF THESE TURBULENT EVENTS, MISOKA SENSES CHANGE--MANIFESTING WITHIN HIS OWN BODY?!

MAHIRU SHIRAISHI
A JUNIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL. MAHIRU POSSESSES THE ABILITY TO AWAKEN AND DRAW OUT THE HIDDEN POWERS OF THE LUNAR RACE

Crescent Moon

Contents

Summary & Cast of Characters.....4
The Chapter of the Misty Moon
When Dark Clouds Obscure the Light of the Moon and Stars
Part 4.....7

The Chapter of the Moon Palace
The Descendent of the Moon Seeks the Light as the Capital Sinks into Darkness
Part 1.....39

The Chapter of the Moon Palace
The Descendent of the Moon Seeks the Light as the Capital Sinks into Darkness
Part 2.....71

The Chapter of the Moon Palace
The Descendent of the Moon Seeks the Light as the Capital Sinks into Darkness
Part 3.....103

The Chapter of the Moon Palace
The Descendent of the Moon Seeks the Light as the Capital Sinks into Darkness
Part 4.....135

After Word.....166

WHAT THE HELL?! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
MISOKA REVERSED HIS TRANSFORMATION?! WHAT IN THE WORLD IS HE THINKING?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME
!!
HOKUTO! THEY'RE OVER HERE!
WE NEED TO RECLAIM THE TEAR OF THE MOON, REMEMBER?
YOU !DIOT!
HOW THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO NOT WORRY?!

MISOKA!
I'M FINE...
WHAT'S WRONG?
MISOKA! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

RIGHT NOW
RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE
..I CAN ASK TO DO THIS

DON'T PATRONIZE ME!
NO! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS FOR HIM TO BE HERE ALONE

MITSURU, DO YOU THINK YOU CAN HOLD THEM OFF BY YOURSELF WHILE I DO THAT?

I'M GOING TO TAKE HIM TO A SAFE PLACE

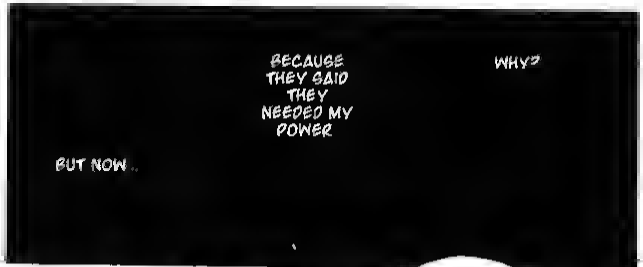
UHHHHGH DAMMIT!
I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT ANYTHING THAT HAPPENS TO ANY OF YOU!
SCREW YOU GUYS!
MITSURU!
I'M FIGHTING FOR ME AND NOBODY ELSE SO--

YOU'LL NOT ESCAPE US, FIEND!
AND JUST WHO THE HELL IS...
...RUNNING?!

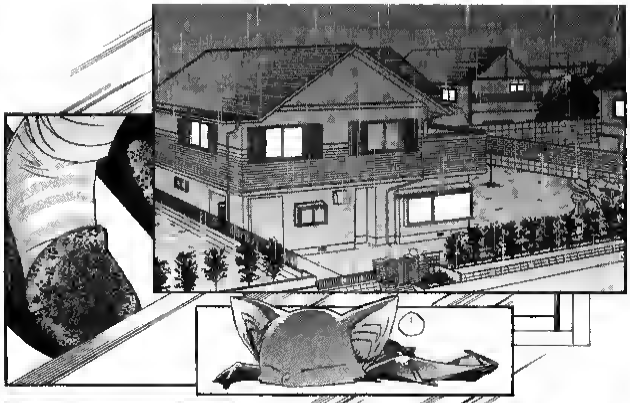
GRIN
I CAN HANDLE PUNKS LIKE THAT SOLO, NO SWEAT!
ALL RIGHT, THEN IT'S ALL YOU, MITSUKU!

THERE!
!!

MAHIRU. WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO GO TO THERE?


BECAUSE THEY SAID THEY NEEDED MY POWER
WHY?
BUT NOW..

EVER SINCE YOU WERE LITTLE, YOU'VE WORRIED SO MUCH ABOUT THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU.
HONESTLY, I DON'T REMEMBER YOU ASKING FOR ANYTHING--EVEN ONCE--WHILE YOU WERE GROWING UP.



THOSE PEOPLE...
THEY DIDN'T DO SOMETHING BAD TO YOU, DID THEY?

MAHIRU I THINK YOU LEFT BECAUSE THERE WAS SOMETHING YOU HAD TO DO RIGHT?
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, MEETING THEM WAS THE FIRST TIME I KNEW THERE WAS A REASON FOR MY DREAMS AND THE STRANGE POWERS I HAD
AND IS THAT THING SUDDENLY NOT IMPORTANT ANYMORE?
SOMETHING I WANTED TO DO... SOMETHING THAT I WANTED... FOR ME...
TO LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT THAT PRINCESS AND THE DEMON AND
TO SOLVE THE MYSTERIES OF MY DREAMS

OH AUNTIE! PLEASE DON'T THINK I...
IT HURT ME WHEN YOU WENT TO THAT PLACE WITHOUT EVEN DISCUSSING IT WITH ME FIRST
.....
I REALIZED THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE EVER ASKED ME FOR ANYTHING
BUT THEN, WHEN I SAT DOWN AND THOUGHT ABOUT IT...

HOW I REALLY FEEL?

HOW I REALLY FEEL IS...!
THANK YOU, AUNTIE
I'M GOING TO TRY MY BEST, OKAY?
!!

LISTEN IT'S GREAT YOU'RE SO UNDERSTANDING ABOUT PEOPLE'S FEELINGS BUT
TO BE TRUE TO YOURSELF, SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO ASK FOR THINGS SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO BE SELFISH
YOU CAN'T JUST KEEP WORRYING ABOUT WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK
RIGHT NOW, WHAT I THINK YOU NEED THE MOST, MAHIRU, IS TO BE TRUE TO HOW YOU REALLY FEEL

I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED CHALLENGING THE GOD OF THE MOUNTAINS, THE TENGU, TO A BATTLE IN THE MOUNTAINS WAS FOOLISH
THE BOW-STRING ISN'T AFFECTING HIM EITHER!
DAMN WIND! HOW THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO HIT HIM WITH MY ARROWS?
YOU'VE GOT THE TEAR, HAVEN'T YOU?
CRAP, I GOT SOMETHING IN MY EYE!
THAT GIRL! SHE'S THE ONE WHO

I CAN SENSE THE TEAR OF THE MOON I THINK I CAN FIND THEM.
I'M NOT GOING TO RUN ANYMORE
I I'M GOING BACK TO THEM!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

OH NO, KEIKO!
HAH!
MITSURA-CHAN...
MITSURU!
CRIK
AAHHH!
KEIKOO!
NOOOOO!

!!
!!
バッ
ッ

ギュ
!!

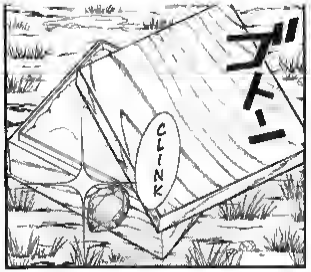
KEIKO!
RUN!
HURRY!

ブォォォォォ
ブォォォォォ

GET IN QUICK, OR YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN!
ガチャ

!!!
I DON'T THINK SO!

……
ブォォォォォ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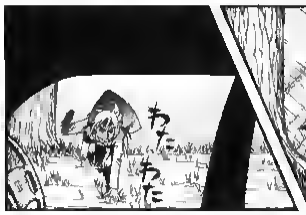
CLINK

HOKUTO?
KEIKO… RUN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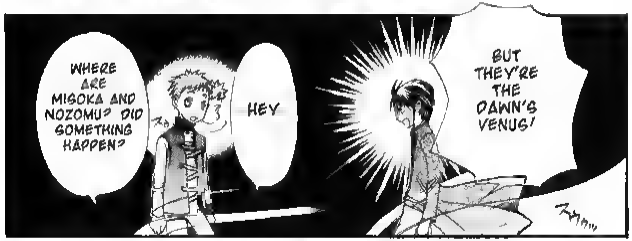
UWWAHHH! NOT GOOD!
HOKUTO! ARE YOU OKAY, HOKUTO?!

HOKUTO, NO!

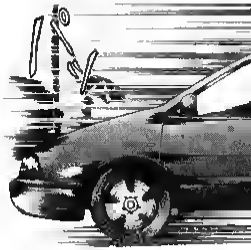
AFTER ALL, I'M NOT A PURE-BLOOD
AND UNLIKE THE REST OF YOU, MY POWER AS ONE OF THE LUNAR RACE WAS BOUND TO DRAIN AWAY EVENTUALLY...
I ALWAYS KNEW THIS DAY WOULD COME
NO, WE CAN'T USE THAT.
OH, I KNOW, WHAT ABOUT THIS?
ISN'T THERE SOMETHING WE CAN DO?
WHO'S THERE?
TAN! TAN!
MAHIRU!
PRINCESS

WHAT GOOD WOULD IT DO US TO KILL ESCAPING HUMANS?
THIS IS WHAT WE CAME HERE FOR, REMEMBER?

HERE'S THE TEAR OF THE MOON, MITSURU

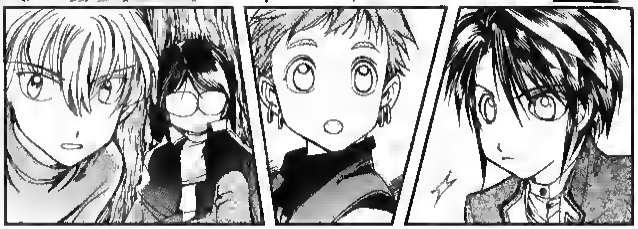

WHERE ARE MISOKA AND NOZOMU? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
HEY
BUT THEY'RE THE DAWN'S VENUS!

KYA!



IT'S THIS WAY
THAT WAS CLOSE
THERE'S NO MISTAKING IT. I KNOW IT'S THE POWER OF THE TEAR OF THE MOON

I'M GONNA STAY WITH YOU GUYS
AND EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT YOU DON'T NEED ME ANYMORE, I
CLENCH
SKIN-CREAK



IT'S GLOWING!!
HER BODY...

OH! I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE ALL SAFE!

!!

I I'M GOING TO STAY WITH YOU GUYS, OKAY? I DECIDED!

PANT
!!!
HUHUHE
UWAAH!
AND ONE DAY- I.. I..
PANT

I LIKE ALL OF YOU.
BUT I CAN'T KILL ANY-ONE AND I WON'T TRY.
SO MAYBE WE'LL BUMP HEADS AGAIN, BUT
BUT I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE UP!

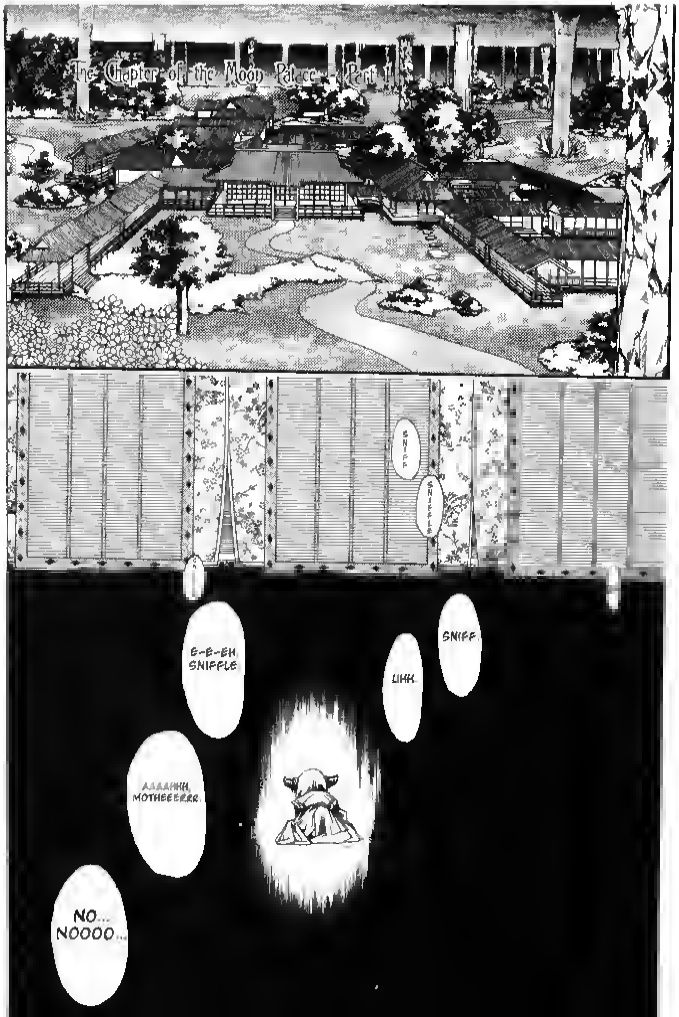
!!
HEY!
AHH! HEY! YOU!

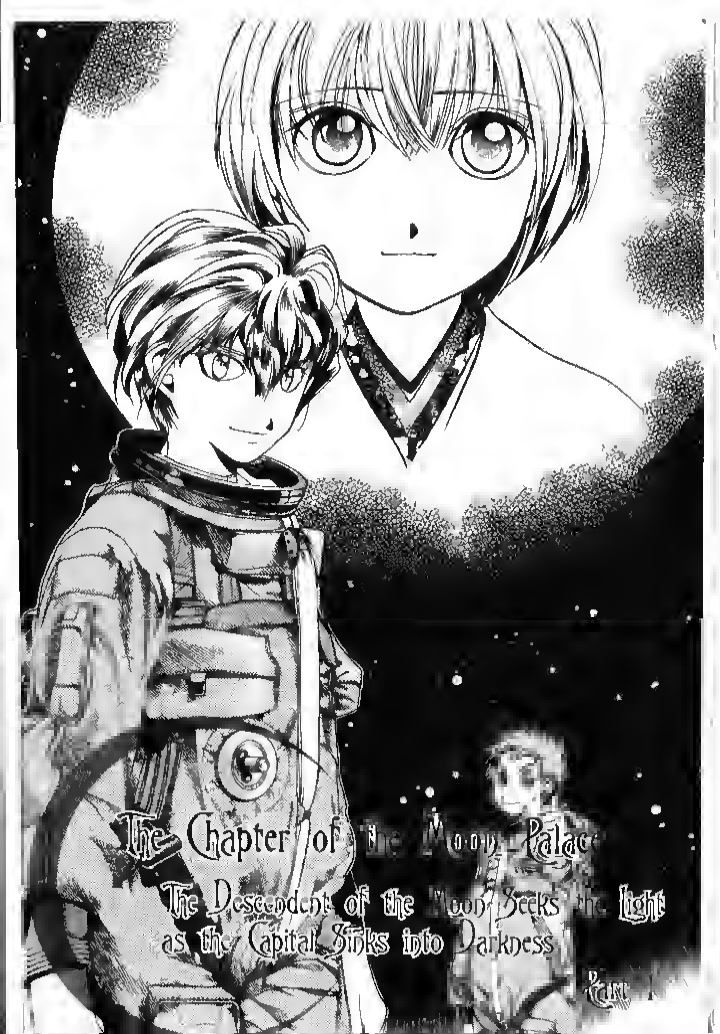
WOW
YES, BUT I STILL DON'T SEEM TO HAVE MY STRENGTH BACK.
YOU CAN STAND?

I'VE NEVER SEEN HER LIKE THIS BEFORE.
I WONDER IF THIS IS PART OF MAHIRU'S POWER?

I'M GOING TO FIND A WAY TO MAKE YOU AND THE HUMAN RACE AND EVERYBODY GET ALONG.
HOLY CRAP, SHE'S BURNING UP! HEY, MAHIRU!
EH? UMM...
DID YOU CALL ME MAHIRU JUST NOW?
UH, MITSURU...
WOW! THAT'S THE FIRST TIME YOU CALLED ME BY MY NAME
SMILE

FU
MAYBE MAHIRU CAN MAKE SOMETHING HAPPEN AFTER ALL.
EVERY-THING'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT FROM NOW ON!
I JUST KNOW IT'S
I THINK SO TOO!


The Chapter of the Moon Palace - Part 1
SNIFF
SNIFF
E-E-EH, SNIFFLE
AAAAHHH, MOTHEEEERR.
NO... NOOOO...
UHH.
SNIFF


The Chapter of the Moon Palace
The Descendant of the Moon Seeks the Light as the Capital Sinks into Darkness

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING WHY?
WE'VE COLLECTED FIVE TEARS OF THE MOON, SO I DON'T UNDER-STAND
WHY ISN'T IT HELP-ING? WHY ARE YOU GETTING WORSE AND WORSE, MOTHER?
NO, I DON'T WANT THAT NO, PLEASE NO, MOTHER. MOTHER!
IF YOU KEEP GETTING WORSE, THEN THEN
IF THIS KEEPS UP

MAHIRU, WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP? YOU NEED TO BE RESTING, REMEMBER?
OH, I'M FINE NOW. MY FEVER'S ALL GONE.
LET'S PLAY A GAME, MITSURU! LET'S PLAY A GAME!
WELL, DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD TODAY, OKAY?
OKAY
THERE'S MISOKA.

準備中
OH
♪

AND I'M NOT IN DANGER OF LOSING MY LIFE ALONG WITH MY POWERS ANYMORE
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND. THANKS TO YOU, PRINCESS, MY BODY FEELS A MILLION TIMES BETTER
ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH THAT? MISOKA?
BUT...
I ALWAYS KNEW THIS DAY WOULD COME, PRINCESS I DID MY BEST TO PREPARE FOR IT.
MISOKA.

はい
とことこ
CAN I HELP YOU, PRINCESS?
MMMM-MMMM...
HERE, TOUCH ME
MISOKA, CAN YOU REALLY NOT TRANSFORM ANYMORE?
I SEE...
YES— UNFORTUNATELY

MISOKA
HOW I FEEL ABOUT IT?
COULD YOU COME WITH ME? WE'VE RECEIVED A COMMUNIQUE FROM THE MOON PALACE

I WASN'T REALLY ASKING IF YOU COULD ACCEPT IT. WHAT I REALLY WANTED TO KNOW WAS HOW YOU FELT ABOUT IT

HUH, HE DIDN'T EVEN STICK AROUND LONG ENOUGH TO FACE ME
IT'S JUST LIKE THAT MISOKA TO WIN AND RUN

MITSURU.
もう

HUH?

OOHH NOZOMU!
HEY, MAHIRU?
UWAH
THE WHOLE PEEPING THING ISN'T A GOOD IDEA
WOW, SHE LOOKS JUST LIKE MISOKA AFTER HIS TRANSFORMATION
ARE YOU NOT FEELING WELL? WHAT'S WRONG?
THAT'S MISOKA'S MOTHER'S YOUNGER SISTER. SHE'S ALSO THE MOON EMPEROR'S LADY IN WAITING.
MISOKA'S AUNT?

SINCE THE EMPEROR ISN'T FEELING WELL
I'M HERE TO SPEAK ON HIS BEHALF

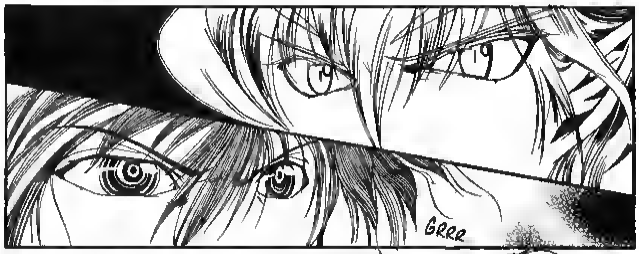
MITSUKU
HMPH

AUNT MAGUMI... IF YOU'LL ALLOW ME TO...
SILENCE, HALF-BREED!

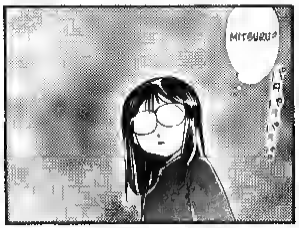
EH? THE DESCENDENT OF THE PRINCESS ME?
THIS IS A DIRECT ORDER FROM THE MOON EMPEROR HIMSELF, LORD SHIROGANE
YOUR ORDERS
ARE TO ESCORT THE DESCENDENT OF THE PRINCESS TO THE MOON PALACE IMMEDIATELY

HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY EXPECT OUR LORD SHIROGANE TO REMAIN CALM WHEN HIS MOTHER'S HEALTH IS IN JEOPARDY?
THE GREAT EMPRESS' CONDITION IS GETTING WORSE EVERY DAY
ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES THERE ARE A TOTAL OF SEVEN TEARS OF THE MOON ONE OF WHICH
DO YOU NOT SEE THAT OUR EMPRESS' WEAKENING STATE IS A DIRECT CONSEQUENCE OF YOUR ACTIONS?!
YOU RENDERED USELESS IN EXCHANGE FOR THE LIFE OF A MEAGLY TENGU

YOU WANT TO SAY THAT ONE MORE TIME?
YOU WANT TO FIGHT?!


GRRR

WAH!
OH NO, THIS IS BAD!


MITSURU?

MITSURU

MITSURU! PLEASE!
WAIT!

WAH!
OH NO

I NEVER ASKED FOR YOU GUYS TO HELP ME!
IT'S YOUR OWN DAMN FAULT FOR USING THE TEAR OF THE MOON, NOT MINE!

EVERYONE HERE WANTED NOTHING BUT TO HELP YOU TO SAVE YOU.
WHEN YOU ALMOST DIED I WAS SO, SO SAD.
WHEN THAT HAP-PENED
MAMIRU-CHAN!
THAT'S WHY WE USED THE TEAR OF THE MOON!
AND DON'T YOU DARE THINK ANY OF US WOULD EVER REGRET DOING THAT!
LET ME APOLOGIZE ON BEHALF OF MY AUNT...
I'M SORRY.
AT WHAT THAT DAMN FOX DEMON SAID.
I JUST GOT PISSED OFF. THAT'S ALL.

THEN I WILL GO I'LL GO TO THE MOON PALACE
I DON'T KNOW IF ANY-THING WILL COME OF IT BUT IF MY BEING THERE WILL HELP EVEN THE SLIGHTEST BIT, I WANT TO HELP
BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU-- YOUR PRESENCE MIGHT PROVE TO BE A FAVORABLE TURNING POINT IN OUR STRUGGLES
I CAN'T SAY THAT I'M SURE SHE'LL RECOVER BEYOND A SHADOW OF A DOUBT

I'M NOT A GOODY GOODY-- GO THERE!
OKAY, HOW ABOUT WE ALL GO, THEN? ♡
THERE YOU GO WITH THAT DAMN GOODY-GOODY TWO-SHOES ACT AGAIN
GRR... DON'T YOU KNOW EVEN PANDAS GET MAD IF YOU PUSH THEM TOO FAR?

IT'S NOT JUST THE EMPRESS WHO'S ILL. WHATEVER SHE HAS IS SPREADING THROUGH THE ENTIRE LUNAR RACE
AND THAT'S WHY. IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO THE GREAT EMPRESS. THEN IT WOULD BE LIKE LOSING ANOTHER RAY OF HOPE FOR ALL OF THOSE OTHER PEOPLE

WE BELIEVE THAT THERE IS INDEED A STRONG CORRELATION BETWEEN THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE TEARS OF THE MOON AND THIS SICKNESS PLAGUING OUR PEOPLE
IF I GO...!
DO YOU THINK THAT THE GREAT EMPRESS WILL REALLY
DO YOU THINK SHE'LL REALLY GET BET-TER?

HMPH FINE, THEN I'LL GO TOO
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME IF I CAN BORROW A LINE FROM YOU.
I'M GOING BECAUSE I WANT TO GO
BUT— MISOKA YOUR HEALTH
WHAT'S WITH THE OVER-REACTION, HUH?
DANG AKIRA, THINK HELL JUST FREEZE OVER

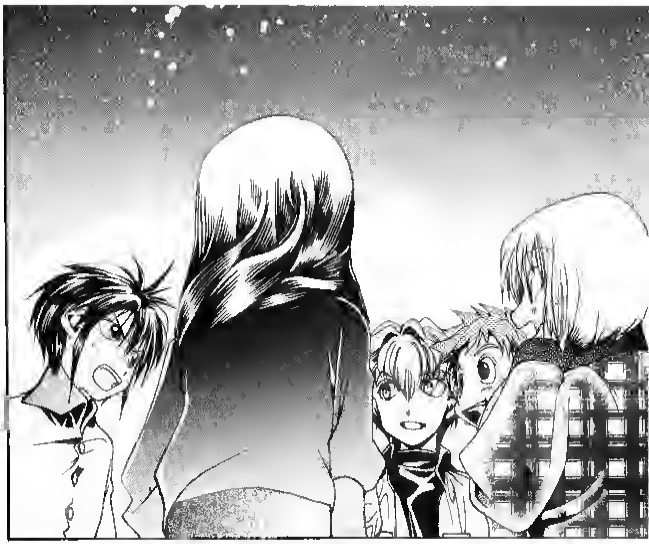
IF WE ALL GO TO THE MOON PALACE.
THEN WHO'S GOING TO LOOK FOR THE REMAINING PIECES OF THE TEARS OF THE MOON, HUH?
NOPE, NOT GONNA HAPPEN
WHA-AAT?!
GEEK OUT PLAYING TO THE CAMERA
OH YEAH

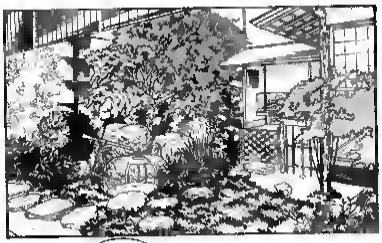
I'LL GO WITH YOU TO THE MOON PALACE
BECAUSE OUT OF ALL OF US, I'M THE MOST VERSED ON THE TEARS AND OUR EFFORTS
NOT TO MENTION THAT WITHOUT MY POWERS I WOULDN'T BE MUCH HELP IN OUR HUNT FOR THE TEARS OF THE MOON ANYHOW.

AS FOR THE TEARS OF THE MOON HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO LEGENDS...
...THEIR PATH IS MUCH MORE UNCLEAR...
YES...ONLY THE STARS HOLD THE KEY TO THEIR LOCATION...
SEE?
WITHOUT ME HAVING TO SAY ANYTHING AT ALL...
...THEY'VE MANAGED TO FIND A PATH OF THEIR OWN
YES...YOU'RE RIGHT...

HMPH...I'M JUST SICK AND TIRED OF HEARING ALL THAT CRAP ABOUT THAT DAMN WASTED TEAR OF THE MOON
SO I'M GOING TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT...
!!
VERY WELL. LET ME GET STARTED ON THE ARRANGEMENTS
HEY! WHAT THE HELL IS THAT LOOK FOR, HUH?
MITSURU

THE ONLY REASON I'M HERE IS TO THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME THE OTHER DAY
SO, I THANK YOU—
KEIKO, I WANT US TO DISSOLVE OUR ENGAGEMENT.
ON ONE CONDITION, HOWEVER. I'M STILL IN NEED OF YOUR PREDICTIONS.
SO AS LONG AS YOU PROMISE YOU'LL CONTINUE TO OFFER THE SERVICE OF YOUR VISIONS TO ME, THEN...





LOOK-- PLEASE DON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY.
KEIKO... YOU CAME TO SEE HOW I WAS DOING?

OF!
HEY, ISN'T THAT THE PRIESTESS SEER GIRL?
SHE... WELL, SHE LOOKED LIKE SHE WAS CRYING.
WHAT THE HELL... ARE THOSE TWO HAVING A LOVER'S QUARREL OR SOMETHING?

I JUST KNEW IT! I.
FINE! I KNEW IT
I HATE YOU!
BAM!

MUCH TO MY DISGRACE. UNFORTUNATELY, YES
HEH. HEARD A RUMOR YOU GOT BANGED UP FIGHTING THAT LOT OF BEAST-MEN.
AND FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS, I'D SAY IT'S ALL TRUE, HUH?
!!
THIS IS...
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE ALWAYS JUMPING INTO THINGS ALL GUNG HO THAT YOU GET INTO TROUBLE NOT TO MENTION THE FACT YOU NEVER CONSULT ANYONE

YOU'RE A BAD, BAD MAN, YOU KNOW?
A SHAME, MAKING A CUTE GIRL LIKE THAT CRY.
SOB
SHE WAS CRYING?
WHOOPS
SOMEHOW I THINK YOU'RE MISTAKEN, NISHINO YOU MUST HAVE BEEN SEEING THINGS.
WHAT? BUT I SAW WHAT I..
COMING THOUGH
ピカ
ピカ

I'M NO LONGER SCARED OF DYING, YOU SEE
FLAP
THIS TIME I CHOOSE TO ACT, RATHER THAN REACT.

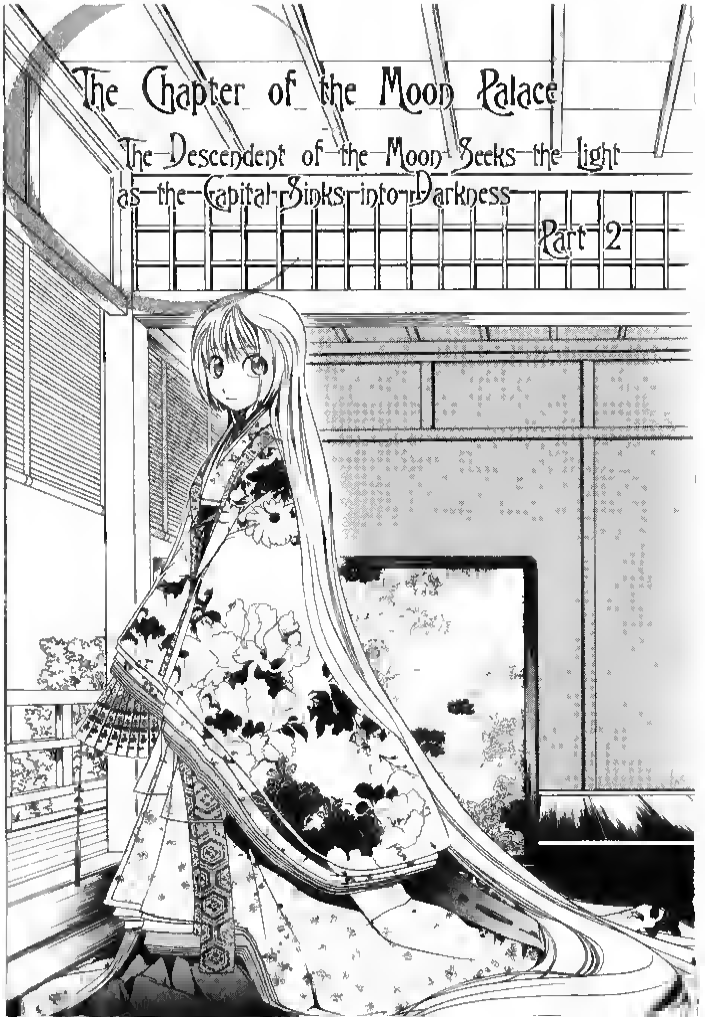
AND TRUST ME WHEN I SAY THAT THAT THE NEXT TIME WE MEET, I'LL DESTROY THEM ALL.

HOPE YOU'VE LEARNED YOUR LESSON FROM ALL OF THIS
..NO.
ACTUALLY, THANKS TO WHAT HAPPENED, I'M ABSOLUTELY SURE OF WHAT I MUST DO. NOT TO MENTION THE FACT THAT I'VE FINALLY FOUND WHAT I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

The Chapter of the Moon Palace

The Descendent of the Moon Seeks the Light as the Capital Sinks into Darkness

Part 2



UGGRH HHHH!
OH, JUST GET IN THERE
WAH!
PRINCESS, PLEASE! NOW IT'S YOUR TURN.
I... OKAY...
MU MU MU...
FALLING DOWN FALLING DOWN...
UAAH! I'M GONNA FALL! KYAAHH!
EEE!
IT'S SAFE TO OPEN YOUR EYES NOW, PRINCESS.

Kyoto
ALL RIGHT, MITSURU. PLACE YOUR HAND ON THE MIRROR.
ギュッ

TH-THIS IS THE MOON PALACE?!

THERE WAS NO MENTION OF RAIN IN THE WEATHER FORECAST, EITHER.
OH MAN, THAT WAS BAD
WEL-COME TO THE MOON
SHINE
WEL-COME TO THE MOON SHINE

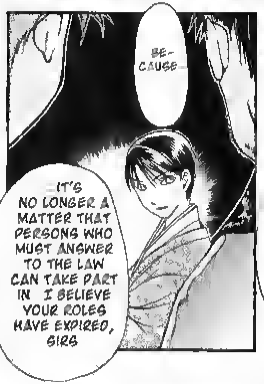
I WONDER WHERE WE COULD HAVE FALLEN FROM
SO THIS IS WHERE THE LUNAR RACE LIVES, HUH?

1000 YEARS AGO
A MAIDEN FROM A NOBLE FAMILY WAS KIDNAPPED BY THE DEMONS
TO RETURN HER SAFELY TO HER FAMILY, A LARGE FORCE OF MEN WAS SENT OUT -- ONE OF THEM MY ANCESTOR
THEY FOUGHT THE DEMONS AND WON, AND NOT ONLY DID THEY RETURN WITH THE MAIDEN UNSCATHED, BUT WITH GEMS SAID TO BE THE SOURCE OF THE DEMONS' POWER. GEMS CALLED THE TEARS OF THE MOON AND OF THOSE GEMS
YOUR ROLES HAVE EXPIRED, SIRS, HE SAYS THE NERVE
BUT INSPECTOR
DON'T YOU FEEL LIKE SOMEHOW HE'S RIGHT? THAT WE'VE SOMEHOW GOTTEN OURSELVES INTO SOMETHING BIGGER THAN THE BOTH OF US?

WON'T SUNNY KNOW THERE WAS A CLASSY PLACE LIKE THIS AROUND HERE
HMMM
I DON'T THINK SO... IT'S JUST AN ULTRA EERIE COINCIDENCE THAT'S ALL
YOU THINK THEY'RE ON TO US?
BUT MAN, THAT HOKUTO KID—
HE SURE LOOKS DOWN ON US POLICE
SO LET'S SERVE 'EM UP AND GET THEM OUT OF HERE AS FAST AS POSSIBLE
YOUR ORDERS, GENTLEMEN
HE'S BANGED UP SO BAD IT'S A WONDER HE'S WALKING, YET HE STILL INSISTS ON GOING IT ALONE AGAINST THOSE FREAKS.

LOOKS LIKE WE CAN'T JUST SIT AROUND AND TWIDDLE OUR THUMBS ANYMORE EITHER
HEY, YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH THAT ONE GIRL, AREN'T YOU?
HUH? THAT ONE GIRL?
YES, THAT GIRL.
THE ONE NAMED KEIKO. WHY DON'T YOU GO FIND OUT WHAT SHE KNOWS
SHAKE

TWO HAVE BEEN PASSED DOWN THROUGH THE GENERATIONS AND BLOODLINES OF THE KOUDOKU! FAMILY
UNFORTU-NATELY, I DON'T HAVE ANY OF THOSE GEMS AT MY DISPOSAL, BUT

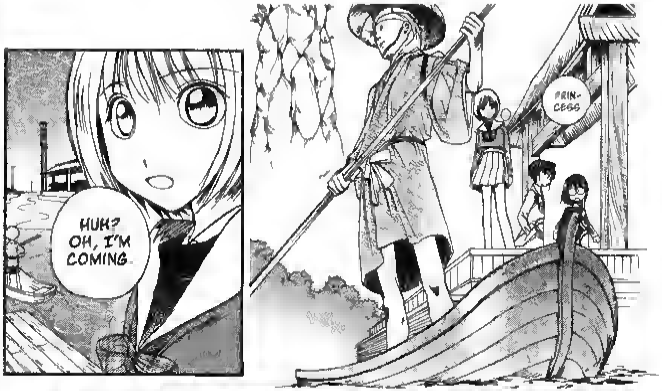

BE-CAUSE
IT'S NO LONGER A MATTER THAT PERSONS WHO MUST ANSWER TO THE LAW CAN TAKE PART IN. I BELIEVE YOUR ROLES HAVE EXPIRED, SIRS

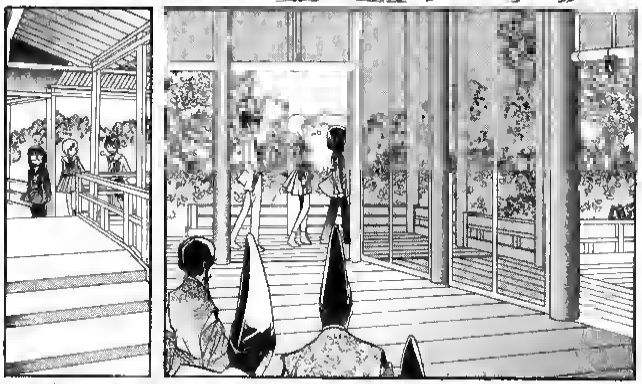
BUT YOU'VE FOUND SOME CLUES TO THEIR LOCA-TION HAVEN'T YOU?
IF YOU KNOW WHERE THEY ARE, WHY KEEP IT TO YOUR-SELF? WHY NOT TELL US TOO?

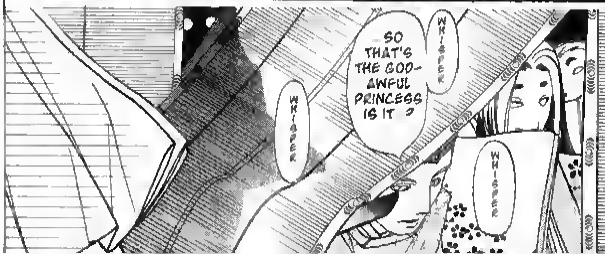
HEY, WAIT UP, SIR! WAIT! INSPECTOR KUSAKABE!
SIGH

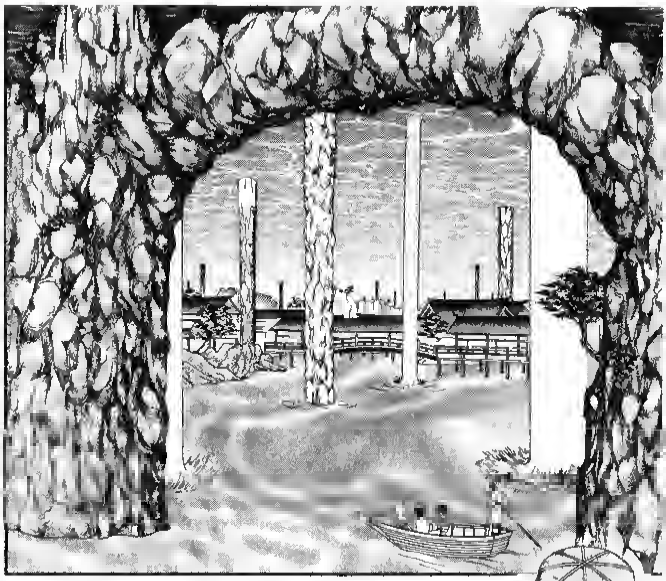
GGRRR-RRRR
OKAY THEN SHALL WE, INSPEC-TOR?

PRINCESS, THE BOAT IS HERE
MAN, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
WOW I'M REALLY AT THE MOON PALACE
I WONDER HOW THIS PLACE WORKS?
THOSE PILLARS
THAT CEILING
AND THIS WATER!

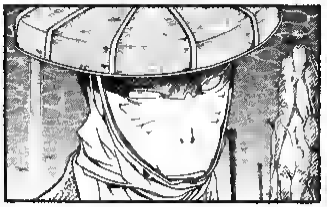

HUH? OH, I'M COMING.
PRINCESS

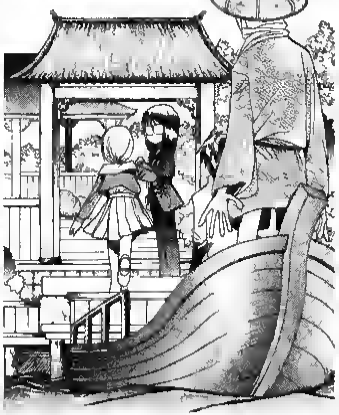



WHISPER
SO THAT'S THE GOO-AWFUL PRINCESS IS IT ?
WHISPER
WHISPER



THANK YOU





WE WELCOME YOU TO THE MOON PALACE
The Head of Shirogane's Ladies in Waiting, Masumi
PER THE MOON EMPEROR'S WISH, WE HAVE BROUGHT THE DESCENDENT OF THE PRINCESS, BEFORE YOU, MY LADY
H-HELLO THERE MY NAME IS MAHIRU SHIRAISHI IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU
THIS PERSON SHE- SHE'S THE LADY THEY SAID WAS MIGOKA'S AUNT, BUT...
GULP
SO YOU'RE THE DESCENDENT OF THE PRINCESS, ARE YOU?

.....
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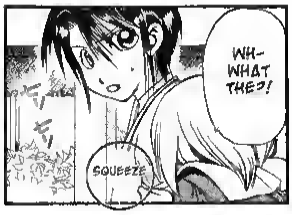
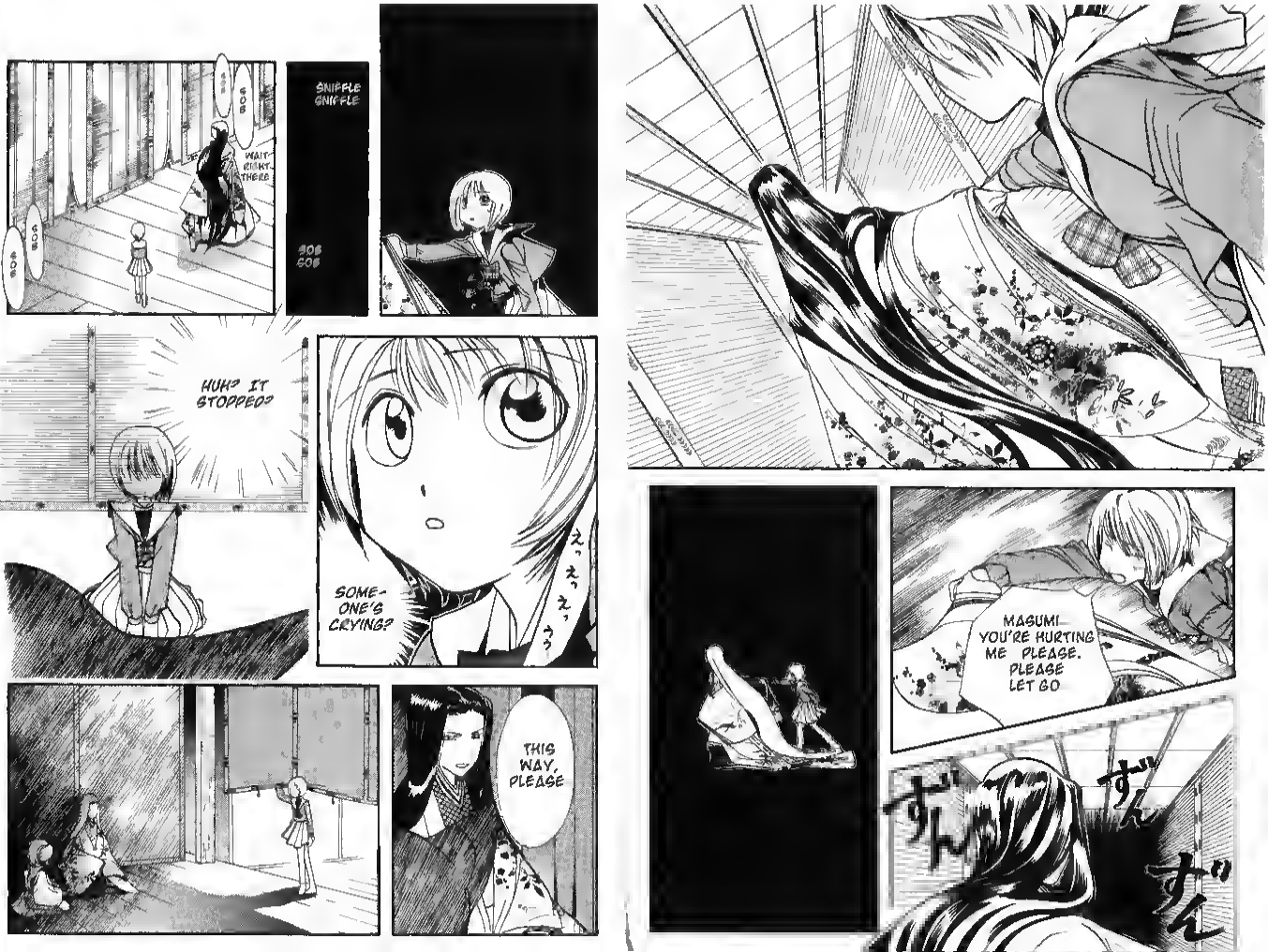

WH- WHAT THE?!
SQUEEZE

NOW HOLD ON A SECOND!
!!
STOP
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

EH?
IT'S OKAY, GUYS! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK
JUST WAIT RIGHT THERE FOR ME, OKAY? MITSURU MISOKA

EH?
I'M AFRAID THERE WON'T BE ANY TIME FOR FORMAL INTRODUCTIONS. THE GREAT EMPRESS' SITUATION WORSENS WITH EVERY BREATH WE TAKE. YOU MUST COME WITH ME

AUNT MAGUMI!
MAHIRU!
YOU TWO ARE TO REMAIN HERE UNTIL OUR BUSINESS IS DONE.
IS THAT CLEAR?


SOB
SOB
WAIT A MINUT... THERE
SOB
SOB
SNIFFLE SNIFFLE
SOB SOB
HUH? IT STOPPED?
SOME-ONE'S CRYING?
えっ えっ うう
THIS WAY, PLEASE
MASUMI... YOU'RE HURTING ME PLEASE. PLEASE LET GO
ずん
ずん
ずん

OH MY GOODNESS... THIS IS THE MOON EMPEROR?!
H-HELLO THERE, EMPEROR, SIR. IT'S...
IT'S QUITE AN HONOR, SIRE.
LOWER YOURSELF. YOU'RE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE MOON EMPEROR, THE LORD SHIROGANE.

YOU CAN'T
I WON'T LET YOU!
OH
MY LORD, SHIROGANE I SHALL BE TAKING THIS GIRL BEFORE THE GREAT EMPRESS, THEN
SO— THEN YOU'RE SAYING I CAN'T GO WITH YOU?
WHY WON'T YOU LET ME SEE HER? WHY?!
PATIENCE, MY LORD. PATIENCE

IF THAT STUPID MINISTER OF THE LEFT'S PRINCESS HADN'T STOLEN AWAY THE TEARS OF THE MOON, NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED!
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF YOU AND YOUR ANCESTORS!
THEN NEITHER MOTHER NOR I WOULD HAVE TO SUFFER LIKE THIS!
NOW HURRY UP! MAKE MOTHER BETTER!
AND DON'T YOU DARE SAY THAT
!!
YOU MUST PAY FOR CRIMES YOUR ANCESTORS COMMITTED

THOSE STARES AND WHISPERS SINCE I'VE BEEN HERE...THEY MUST REPRESENT HOW THE LUNAR RACE, TRULY FEELS ABOUT ME...
AND ALL THIS TIME...ALL THE KINDNESS THEY SHOWED ME AT THE MOONSHINE COULDN'T BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH.

I HEARD THAT HE WAS OBORO'S NEPHEW, BUT
. I HAD NO IDEA HE WAS JUST A LITTLE BOY!

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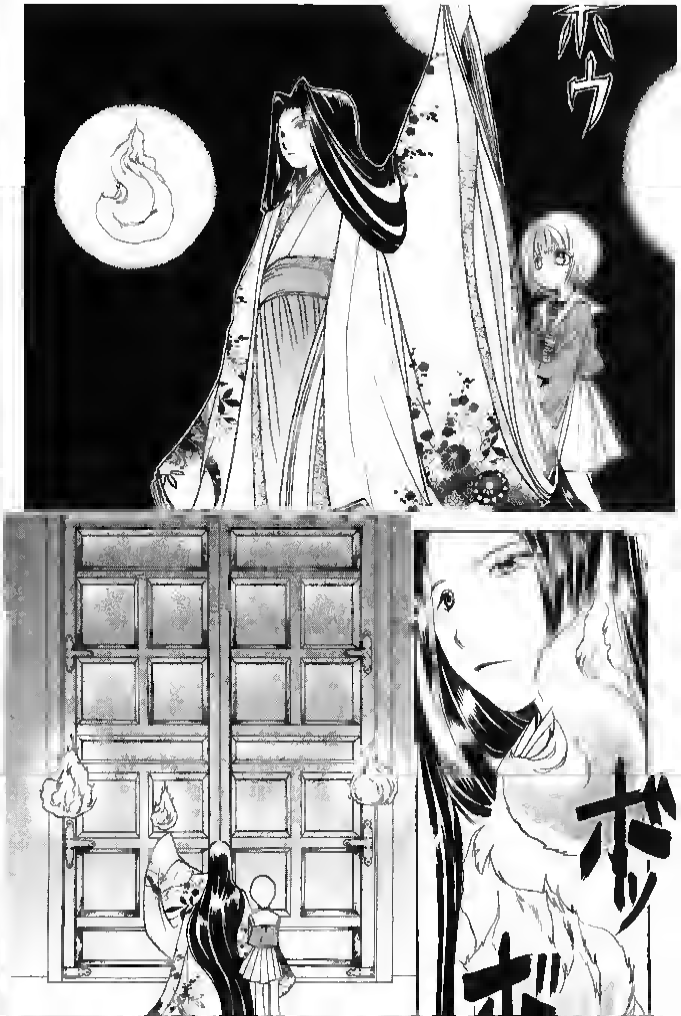
IT'S LIKE ROTTING MEAT.
OH MY GOD THAT SMELL?
YOU HAVE BEEN GRANTED PERMISSION TO TAKE THE HAND OF THE GREAT EMPRESS. COME. THIS WAY.
DESCENDENT OF THE PRINCESS

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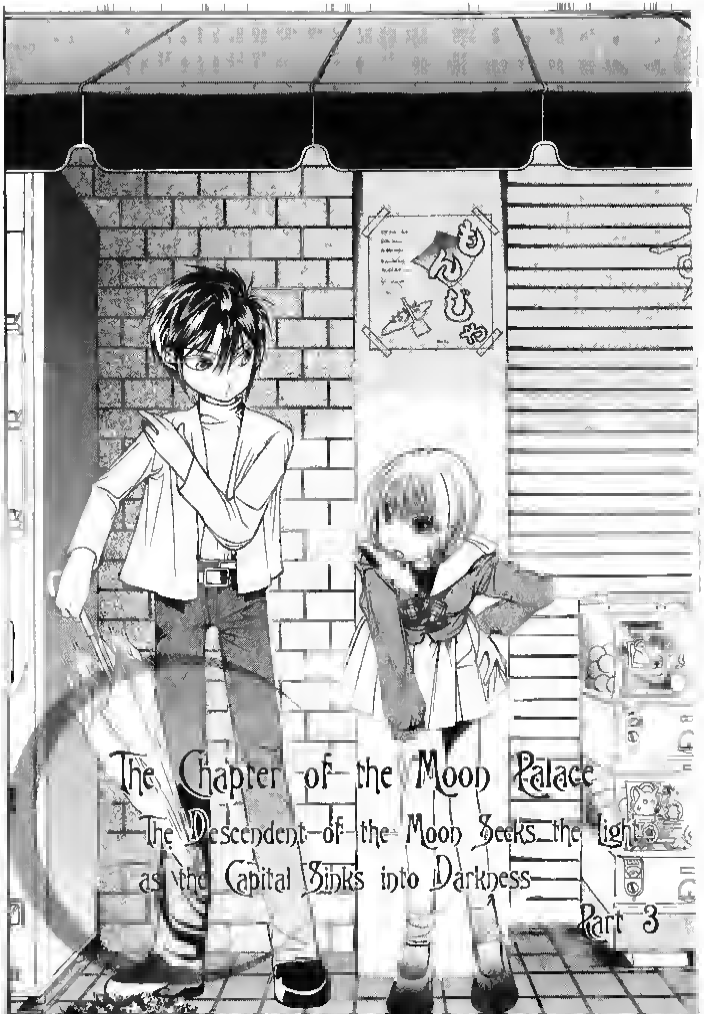
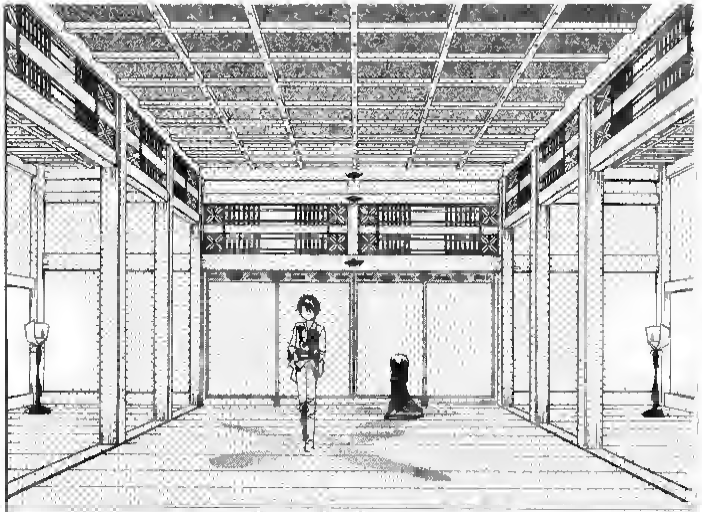
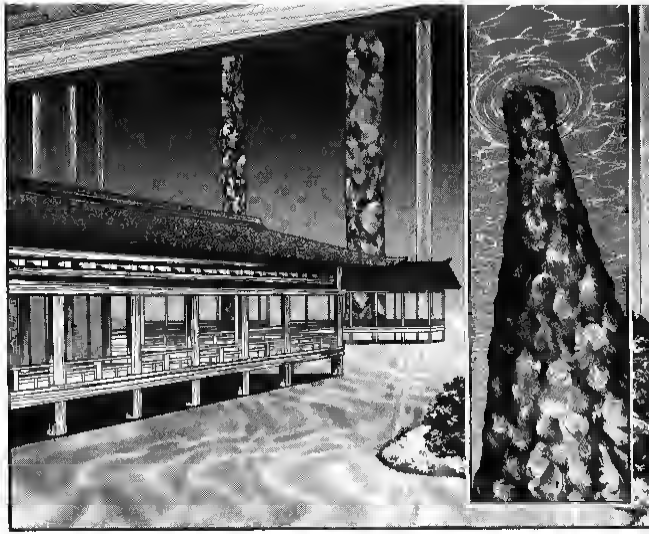
I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL BE ABLE TO DO ANY-THING, BUT... I'VE GOT TO TRY...I'VE JUST

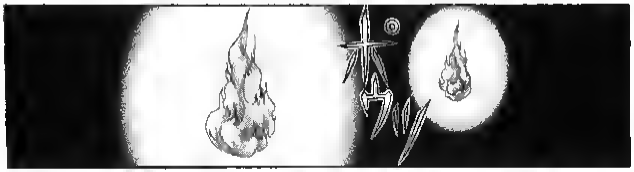
The Chapter of the Moon Elder - Part 2 - The End

NO, I MUSTN'T THINK THAT WAY! SHE'S NOT DEAD SHE'S STILL ALIVE!
WHAT'S TAKING YOU SO LONG? YOU DARE TO KEEP THE EMPRESS WAITING?
KYA!
!!
TNK
...NO... IF SHE DIES, THEN THAT LITTLE BOY WILL BE ALL ALONE...JUST LIKE ME.
SHE'S THAT LITTLE BOY'S MOTHER!
HMPH


The Chapter of the Moon Palace
The Descendent of the Moon Seeks the Light as the Capital Sinks into Darkness
Part 3







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THOSE THOUGHTS DRIVE THEM TO THE EDGE OF INSANITY
THEY'RE BEGINNING TO THINK, WILL I BE NEXT?

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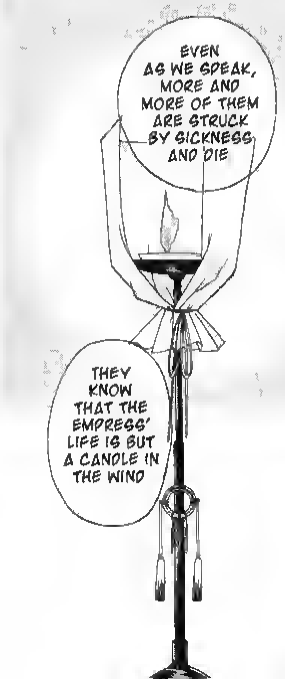
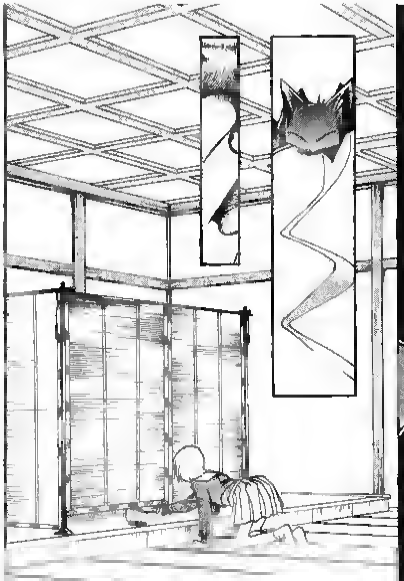
ヒソ
ヒソ
ヒソ

キャアア

GOD, THEY'RE LOUD
GH!
HMPH
IT'S OKAY, GUYS I'LL BE RIGHT BACK
ARE YOU THAT WORRIED FOR HER?


EVEN AS WE SPEAK, MORE AND MORE OF THEM ARE STRUCK BY SICKNESS AND DIE
THEY KNOW THAT THE EMPRESS' LIFE IS BUT A CANDLE IN THE WIND

W-WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT? DO YOU THINK SOMETHING HAPPENED TO MAHIKO?!
NO THAT CAME FROM THE QUARTERS OF THE LADIES IN WAITING



I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING, BUT—

!!

WH...
SLUGH
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

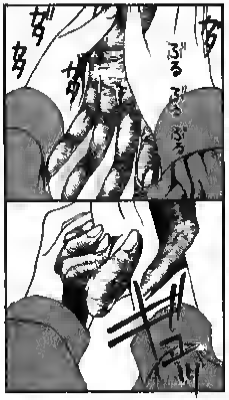
OH, SHOVE IT!
DAMMIT

WHERE ARE YOU GOING? YOU CAN'T JUST WALK AROUND HERE LIKE THAT
I JUST CAN'T STAND BEING STUCK IN THIS DAMN ROOM ALL DAMN DAY

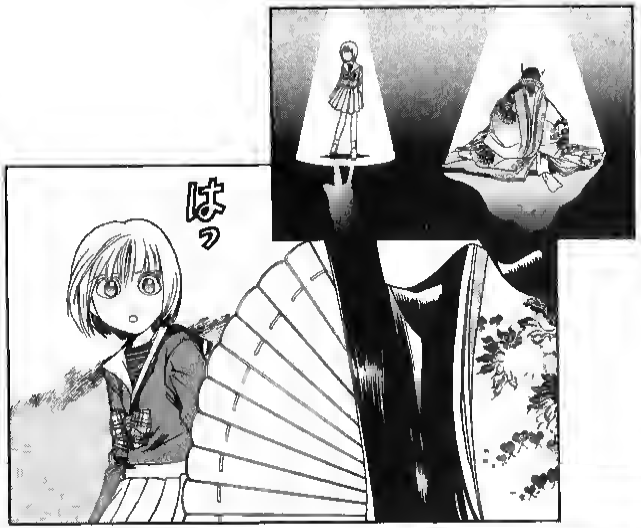
KYAH!

LADY MAHIRU...
W--WHAT'S GOING ON...?
LADY MAHIRU...
LADY MAHIRU...
WHERE ARE YOU?

I'VE GOT TO TRY.



PLEASE, EMPRESS... PLEASE GET WELL... FOR YOUR PEOPLE... AND FOR YOUR SON...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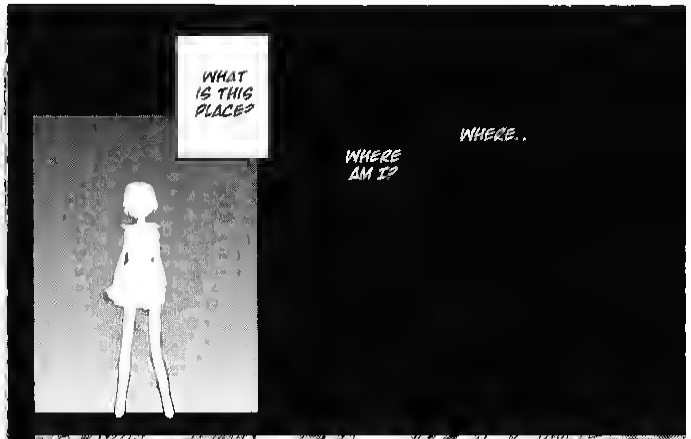
WHY ME? WHY DO THEY PLACE ALL THE BLAME ON ME?!
WHY...?


WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
WHERE AM I?
WHERE..

WHAT GOOD IS SHE AS OUR EMPRESS..?
IF SHE CAN'T HAVE A CHILD.
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW BEAUTIFUL SHE IS
AND YET SHE STILL HAS NO CHILDREN TO SHOW FOR IT
IT'S BEEN QUITE A WHILE THAT THEY'VE BEEN MARRIED.
THAT'S SO MEAN, TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT. IT'S NOT ALWAYS THE WOMAN'S FAULT WHEN SHE DOESN'T GET PREGNANT! IT TAKES TWO, YOU KNOW
WAAH!
REGRETFULLY, OUR LORD SHIROGANE WAS
WELL, HE WAS BORN WITH ABSOLUTELY NO TRACE OF POWER FROM OUR DEMON BLOODLINE
OH, GOODIE! BECAUSE THEN LORD SHIROGANE WAS BORN, WASN'T HE?
CONGRATULATIONS, MY LADY! IT'S A BOY
THE CROWN PRINCE IS BORN!
OH! IS THAT THE GREAT EMPRESS..?
HEE HEE SNICKER SNICKER
WHISPER WHISPER
HM HM HM WHISPER WHISPER
WHISPER WHISPER SNICKER SNICKER

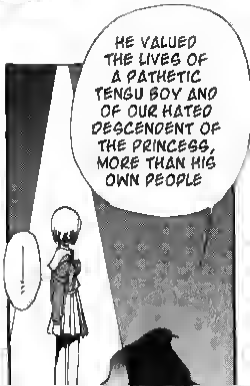
IS IT TRUE THAT IF THE TEARS OF THE MOON STOLEN AWAY 1,000 YEARS AGO BY THOSE HUMANS ARE RETURNED TO US
THEN MY ILLNESS WILL BE REMEDIED AND SHIROGANE'S POWER WILL RETURN AS WELL?
UPON ALL OF OUR PEOPLE ON THE VERGE OF EXTINCTION AS WELL THE RETURN OF THE TEARS OF THE MOON MAY BE OUR ONLY HOPE FOR SURVIVAL
THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY, MY LADY, THAT NOT ONLY WILL THEY HAVE AN EFFECT UPON YOU AND LORD SHIROGANE, BUT
THEN MY LORD OBORO, I MUST ASK THIS OF YOU.
THAT YOU FIND THE TEARS AND RETURN THEM TO OUR PEOPLE
IF EVEN THE SLIGHTEST SLIVER OF THE LOVE YOU ONCE HAD FOR ME REMAINS, THEN THIS I BEG OF YOU
MY LADY THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.

HIS MAJESTIC HORNS, I'M AFRAID...
ARE IN FORM ONLY
WHAT HAVE I DONE?
WHAT IS WRONG WITH ME TO DESERVE SUCH TORMENT?!
WHY MUST I ENDURE SUCH THINGS?
EMPRESS
WE MUST FIND ANOTHER ON WHOM TO BESTOW THE MOON EMPEROR'S TITLE
THE EMPEROR HAS EXPIRED UPON HIS THRONE
WE MUST RECALL OUR EMPEROR'S BROTHER, LORD OBORO, TO THE MOON PALACE IMMEDIATELY!
MOTHER! MOTHER!
I FEAR THAT OUR YOUNG AND POWERLESS LORD SHIROGNAE IS ILL-EQUIPPED TO TAKE THE THRONE AS OUR MOON EMPEROR
OBORO!
SILENCE! BY RIGHT IT IS MY SHIROGANE WHO MUST AND SHALL ASCEND THE THRONE!

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
ANSWER ME, I SAY!
THAT ISN'T TRUE MY LADY, THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL!
EMPRESS!
E-EMPRESS!
WHOSE FAULT IS IT THAT ALL THOSE THINGS HAPPENED?
THEN WHOSE FAULT IS IT?

I WILL FIND THE TEARS OF THE MOON AND RESTORE OUR PEOPLE
...AND AS A MEMBER OF THE SILVER HORNED CLAN THAT PRESIDES OVER THE LUNAR RACE...
HOWEVER, AS YOUR, AND MY EMPEROR'S, LOYAL SUBJECT...
AHHH... BUT IT'S TOO LATE NOW.
LORD OSORO BETRAYED ME AND MY BELOVED SHIROGANE.
HE BETRAYED US BOTH

...
YOU NOW!
LADY MAHIRU!
...


HE VALUED THE LIVES OF A PATHETIC TENGU BOY AND OF OUR HATED DESCENDENT OF THE PRINCESS, MORE THAN HIS OWN PEOPLE
!

ANYTHING OBORO DOES IS SO WE CAN ALL BE HAPPY
HOW I HATE THIS
HOW IT PAINS ME
I KNOW HE'S TRYING HIS BEST. I JUST KNOW IT!
AND I...
AND ALL THE PEOPLE AT THE STORE...!
I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE MY SHIROGANE ALONE...
I DON'T WANT TO DIE...
!!
IT WAS NOT MY FAULT! PLEASE...
IT'S NOT MY FAULT...
OBORO IS ALWAYS THINKING OF HOW TO HELP YOUR PEOPLE!
OBORO WOULD NEVER BETRAY YOU OR YOUR PEOPLE!

ああああ

EMPRESS!
PLEASE, CALM YOURSELF DOWN! YOU'LL MAKE YOURSELF WORSE
ああああ

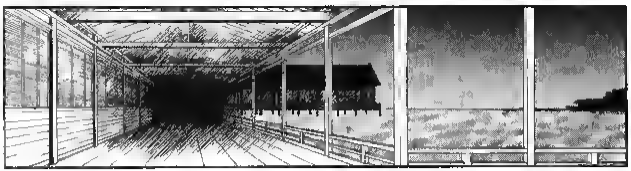
THAT VOICE... IT'S MY MOTHER!
!!
どん
どん
OPEN UP! MAGUMI!
MAGUMI!
NO EMPRESS, NO—
MY EMPER-OR
PLEASE STOP THAT, MY LORD

I WANT SHIROGANE TO KNOW
ABOUT THE EMPRESS AND ABOUT OBORO
I WANT TO EXPLAIN IT ALL TO HIM
PLEASE LET ME!
!!
!!
THUMP!
AND JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
PLEASE DON'T GO YET
EMPRESS WAIT!
PLEASE DON'T LEAVE WITH ALL YOUR DOUBTS AND HATE INTACT
YOU CAN'T LEAVE WITH JUST THAT.

IT'S DARK OUT HERE, ISN'T IT?
OH WATER
IT GETS DARKER DOWN THIS WAY.
RIGHT NOW, THOUGH, I'M MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THAT SCREAM WE JUST HEARD.

LORD SHIROGANE! I ASKED YOU NEVER TO COME HERE

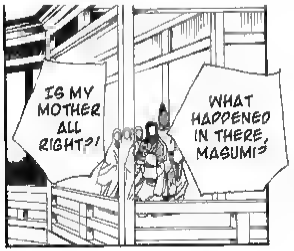
I HEARD HER SCREAM!
WHAT HAPPENED TO MOTHER?!
BUT MOTHER!

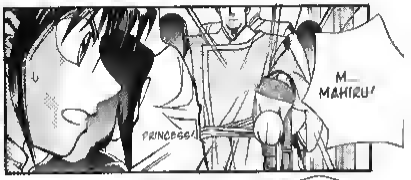


...IS EXACTLY WHAT THE MOON PALACE NEEDS IN TIMES OF TROUBLE.
I NOW KNOW THAT THE POWER OF THE DESCENDENT OF THE PRINCESS
THEREFORE, I SHALL BE KEEPING THE LADY MAHIRU UNDER MY WATCH FOR AWHILE
WHAT?!

A MOMENT PLEASE, LADY MAGUMI
SHOULD YOU NOT CONFER WITH LORD OBORO FIRST?

!

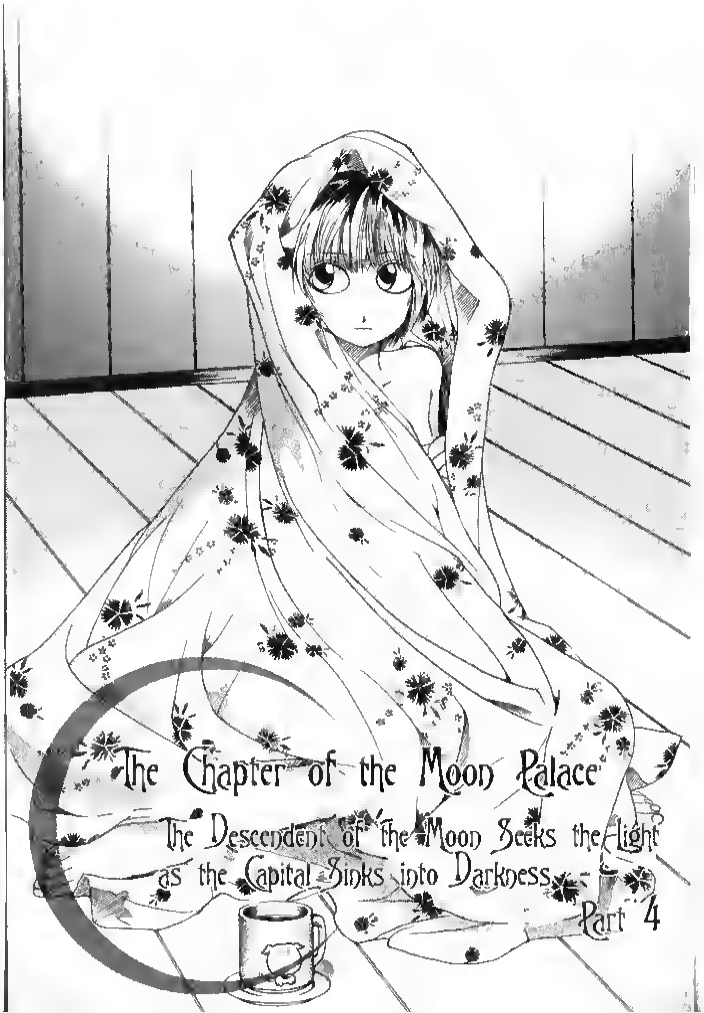

IS MY MOTHER ALL RIGHT?!
WHAT HAPPENED IN THERE, MAGUMI?


PRINCESS!
M... MAHIRU!

Y-YOU THERE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
YOU FIRST... WHAT WERE YOU PLANNING ON DOING TO MAHIRU?!
THE DESCENDENT OF THE PRINCESS SIMPLY TIRED HERSELF OUT HEALING THE EMPRESS IS ALL SHE FAINTED DURING THE SESSION
AS FOR THE EMPRESS, WELL...
SHE TOO IS RESTING.

パン
パン
GUARDS! TAKE THESE TWO TO THE DUNGEONS!
!!
The Chapter of the Moon Palace - Part 3 - The End

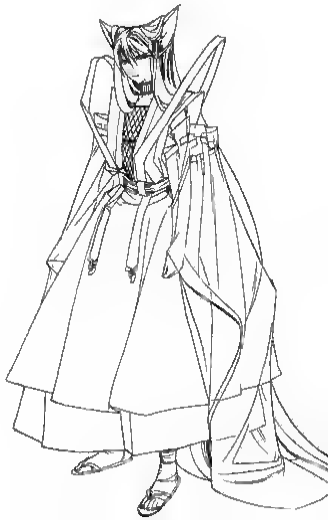
SILENCE!
AND DO YOU EVEN HAVE THE PRINCESS' CONSENT IN THIS MATTER?
THIS DOESN'T CONCERN MY UNCLE IN THE SLIGHTEST!
I'M THE MOON EMPEROR! MY WORD TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER ANY OTHER'S!
THAT'S THE MOON EMPEROR?!
WHAT?!



The Chapter of the Moon Palace

The Descendent of the Moon Seeks the Light as the Capital Sinks into Darkness

Part 4

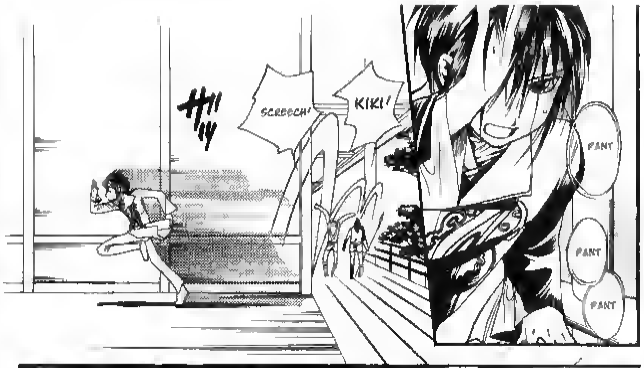


TAKE CARE OF THE PRINCESS!
PRINCESS!

PANT PANT

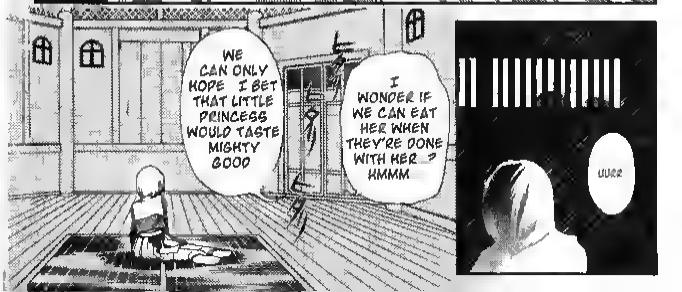
MISOKA...!
PANT
PANT
PANT
MITSURU! RUN!

G-GUYS

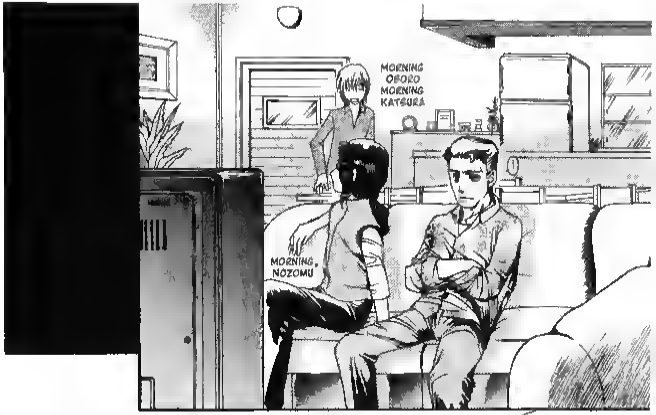

HII IY
SCREECH!
KIKI!
PANT
PANT
PANT

KYAH!

YAWN!
MORNING!
Tsukudajima
The Moonshine


WE CAN ONLY HOPE I BET THAT LITTLE PRINCESS WOULD TASTE MIGHTY GOOD
I WONDER IF WE CAN EAT HER WHEN THEY'RE DONE WITH HER ? HMMM
UUUU

NOZOMU
WHA?!
NOZOMU
MISOKA?! WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU?!


MORNING OBOZO MORNING KATSURA
MORNING, NOZOMU

WHAT ARE YOU STILL DOING HERE?
HUH?
SHOULDN'T YOU BE GOING TO SEE THAT GIRL? GO ON, SCOOT!

WHAA-AAT?!
AKIRA... SEEMS LIKE MISOKA'S BEEN TOSSED INTO THE DUNGEONS

SOMETHING BIG MUST HAVE GONE DOWN...
MISOKA SACRIFICED HIMSELF SO THAT MITSURU COULD ESCAPE...
HE THINKS THAT MITSURU MADE IT TO SOME PLACE SAFE...
BUT...

SORRY, I'M IN THE MOON PALACE
IN THE WATER DUNGEON TO BE CORRECT
WHAT?!

WHAT NOW?
AND
I'M GOING TO HAVE MR BAT DO SOME LEGWORK FOR ME OR WINGWORK, I GUESS
TAKE CARE OF THE PRINCESS FOR ME, WOULD YOU? AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, OKAY?
I HAD NO IDEA THAT THE PALACE THAT MY AUNT WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS
I NEVER THOUGHT SHE HAD IT IN HER I'M SO SORRY
THAT IDIOT! ACTING LIKE HE'S THE HERO OF SOME SUPERMAN FLICK!
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT'S HAPPENING TO MISOKA?
HEY, MISOKA! MISOKA?!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOU? DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOU?! OF COURSE WE'LL WORRY!
YOU TWO, CHECK THIS OUT. QUICK!
8:57
HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE THAT PLACE MIGHT BE
WHAT ABOUT MAHIRU?
THIS IS TER-RIBLE
BUT I CAN'T GET IN TOUCH WITH HER
THE PRINCESS IS PROBABLY BEING HELD SOME-WHERE WITHIN THE PALACE

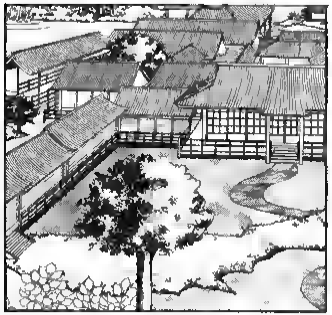
LORD SHIROGANE MUST CONTINUE TO HARBOR THE HOPE THAT HE CAN BE CURED ONE DAY
WHAT? SO NOT ONLY DO WE HAVE TO KEEP THIS FROM LORD OBORO, BUT FROM LORD SHIROGANE AS WELL?! BUT MY LADY...
THAT VIXEN
SO THE EMPRESS TRULY IS DEAD...
IN THE END, THE DESCENDENT OF THE PRINCESS COULD NOT SAVE THE LIFE OF OUR EMPRESS
THEN IT'S TRUE...IT'S THE END FOR OUR PEOPLE, ISN'T IT?
THE EMPRESS IS DEAD?! MAHIRU'S POWER WAS TOO MUCH?!
I WAS RIGHT THERE WHEN IT HAPPENED.
HOWEVER PERHAPS THE YOUNGER LORD SHIROGANE WILL BE ABLE TO SUCCESSFULLY FEED ON THE PRINCESS' POWER
IN OUR EMPRESS' WEAKENED STATE, THE POWER OF THAT GIRL WAS JUST TOO GREAT. HER BODY COULDN'T WITHSTAND THE TREATMENT

THE POLICE BELIEVE THE THEFT WAS COMMITTED BY NONE OTHER THAN THE MOONLIGHT BANDITS, WHO—
FROM AN EXHIBIT ENTITLED "THE GODS OF OLD AND THEIR MAGIC" CURRENTLY HOSTED AT THE TOKYO CITY MUSEUM
LATE LAST NIGHT, THIEVES STOLE SOME ARTIFACTS.

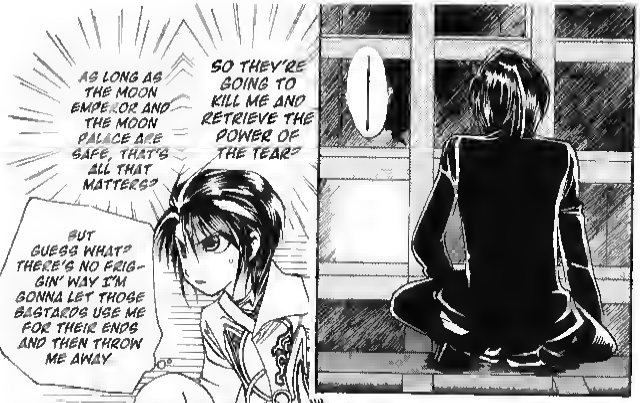
UNLESS...IT WAS THE DAWN'S VENUS MASQUERADING AS US...

WHAT?!
BUT WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING OR GO ANYWHERE LAST NIGHT!

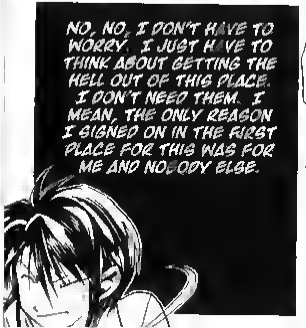
THERE SHE IS
BUNS



WE MUST FIND HIM AT ALL COSTS.
AND ONCE WE DO, WE'LL KILL HIM AND FIGURE OUT HOW TO RETRIEVE THE POWER OF THE TEAR FROM HIS CORPSE.
THAT INSOLENT TENGU WAS BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE BY THE POWER OF THE TEAR OF THE MOON, I HEAR...
WHERE IS HE?!


SO THEY'RE GOING TO KILL ME AND RETRIEVE THE POWER OF THE TEAR?
AS LONG AS THE MOON EMPEROR AND THE MOON PALACE ARE SAFE, THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS?
BUT GUESS WHAT? THERE'S NO FRIGGIN' WAY I'M GONNA LET THOSE BASTARDS USE ME FOR THEIR ENDS AND THEN THROW ME AWAY

I NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE


NO, NO, I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY. I JUST HAVE TO THINK ABOUT GETTING THE HELL OUT OF THIS PLACE. I DON'T NEED THEM. I MEAN, THE ONLY REASON I SIGNED ON IN THE FIRST PLACE FOR THIS WAS FOR ME AND NOBODY ELSE.

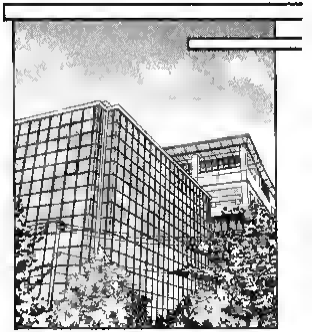
I WONDER WHERE THOSE TWO ARE...?
AND I WONDER IF THEY'RE OKAY?

IF LORD OBORO CANNOT GATHER THE TEARS, THEN WE SHALL HAVE HER LOCATE THEM
WE'LL CONTINUE TO HOLD THE DESCENDENT OF THE PRINCESS AND HAVE HER WORK FOR US DURING HER STAY
DAMN THOSE BASTARDS

IT'S OUR DUTY TO PROTECT THE MOON PALACE WE MUST NOT FAIL!
SO LONG AS THE MOON EMPEROR AND THE MOON PALACE ARE SAFE, OUR PEOPLE WILL NOT PERISH

ALL THAT MATTERS IS THAT YOU LEND ME YOUR POWERS OF SEEING
AND ONE OTHER THING I'M BREAKING OFF OUR ENGAGEMENT
I'M SUCH A FOOL... I CAN'T BELIEVE I ACTUALLY STILL EXPECTED SOMETHING FROM HIM...
KEIKO...
A-AKIRA!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN NO... I GUESS I ALREADY KNEW ALL THIS TIME...
WHO'S THERE?

I DON'T OWE EITHER OF THEM ANYTHING... AND I SURE AS HELL AM NOT GOING TO GET KILLED OVER THEM!
OH, GODDAMMIT... WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH ME? WHY DO I FEEL ALL TORN UP INSIDE?
DAMMIT... WHERE THE HELL... WHERE THE HELL IS SHE ANYWAY?

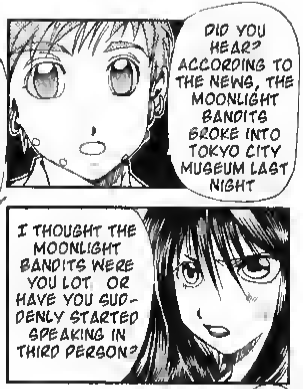


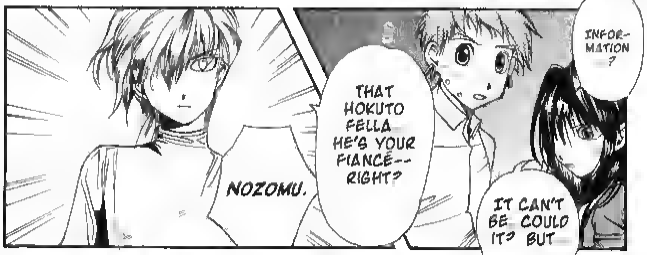
JUST KNOW THAT THE NEXT TIME WE MEET, DON'T EXPECT US TO HOLD BACK.
WHICHEVER WAY EITHER OF YOU FEEL, THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING NOW, WHO KNOWS WHAT HE'S CAPABLE OF OR WHAT HE'LL DO NEXT
HE DOESN'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT ME. AND IF YOU MUST KNOW, HE EVEN WENT AND DISSOLVED OUR ENGAGEMENT.
NO, NO! THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE
THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN STOP HIM IS YOU, DON'T YOU SEE THAT?
W-WAIT A SECOND, NOZOMU.
B-BUT I...

YOU KNOW-- PUT OUR HEADS TOGETHER AND TRY TO FIGURE THIS OUT, OKAY?
WE NEED TO THINK...
I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK ANYMORE
KEIKO
JUST WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?

WE THOUGHT THAT MAYBE IT WAS YOU GUYS THAT MAYBE THE MORNING STAR HAD UNCOVERED SOME INFORMATION REGARDING THE TEARS AND...

LISTEN UP. WE DIDN'T GO ANYWHERE LAST NIGHT
EH?

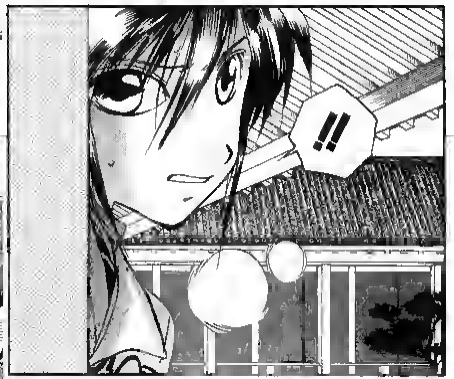

DID YOU HEAR? ACCORDING TO THE NEWS, THE MOONLIGHT BANDITS BROKE INTO TOKYO CITY MUSEUM LAST NIGHT
I THOUGHT THE MOONLIGHT BANDITS WERE YOU LOT. OR HAVE YOU SUDDENLY STARTED SPEAKING IN THIRD PERSON?


NOZOMU.
THAT HOKUTO FELLA HE'S YOUR FIANCÉ-- RIGHT?
INFORMATION?
IT CAN'T BE. COULD IT? BUT...

EH?
GOOD FOR HIM
HE MUST HAVE KEPT YOU OUT OF THE LOOP ON THIS ONE SO YOU COULDN'T BE IMPLICATED IN THE THEFT IF SOMETHING WENT WRONG

I'M NOT JUST ANYONE, I'M THE MOON EMPEROR, DAMMIT, AND I'M ORDERING YOU TO MOVE ASIDE!

.....
HOW CAN YOU ARGUE WITH THAT?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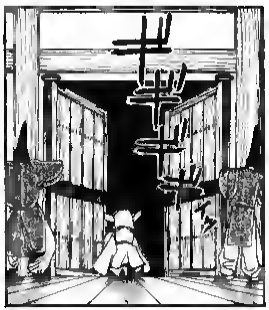
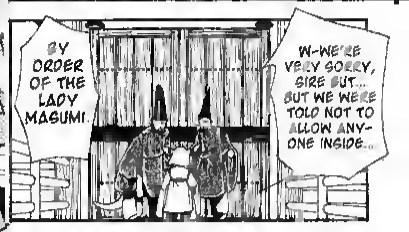
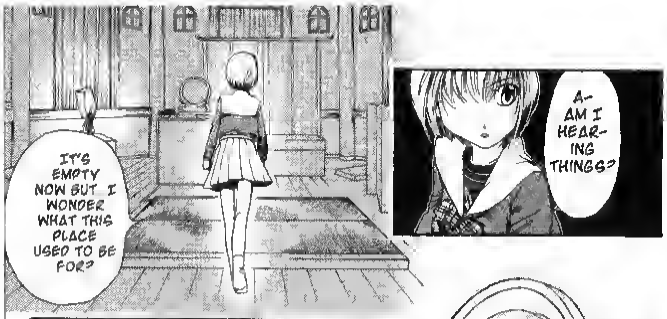
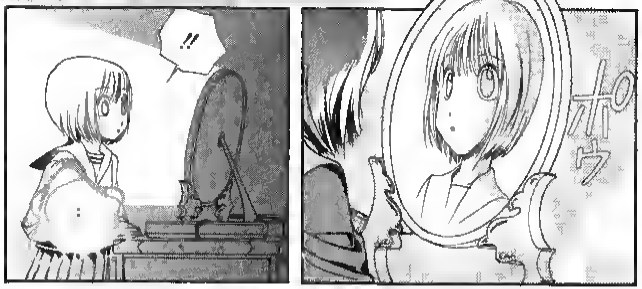


JUST WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE SPEAKING TO?!

!!


BY ORDER OF THE LADY MASUMI
W-WE'RE VERY SORRY, SIRE BUT... BUT WE WERE TOLD NOT TO ALLOW ANY-ONE INSIDE...


IT'S EMPTY NOW BUT I WONDER WHAT THIS PLACE USED TO BE FOR?
A- AM I HEAR-ING THINGS?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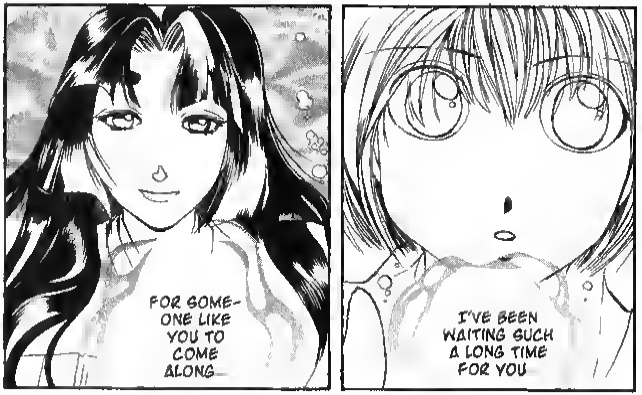
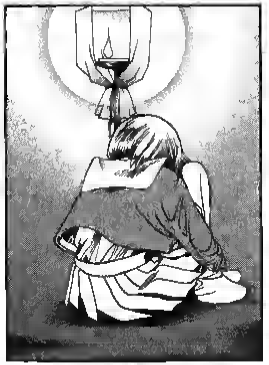
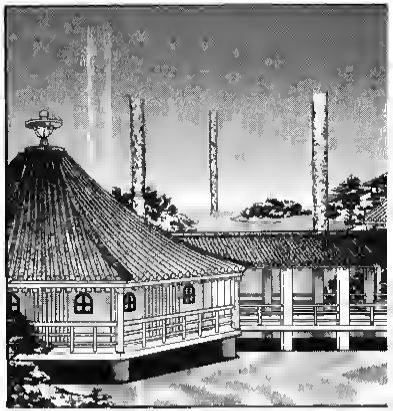
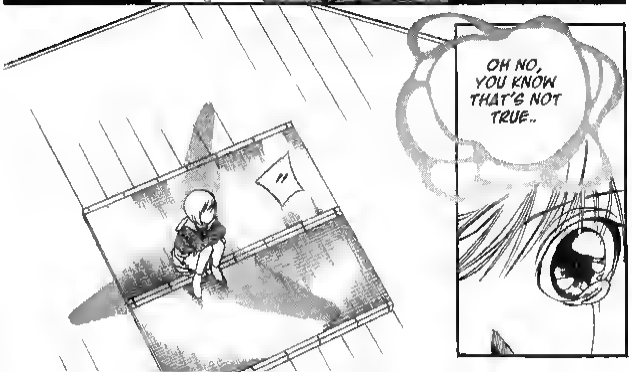

FOR SOME-ONE LIKE YOU TO COME ALONG...
I'VE BEEN WAITING SUCH A LONG TIME FOR YOU





WHAT AM I GOING TO DO NOW? WHAT CAN I DO? I WAS SUCH A FOOL TO THINK THAT JUST WANTING TO HELP WOULD AMOUNT TO ANYTHING..
OH NO! THE EMPRESS DIED AND I... NO I... I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO STOP IT...

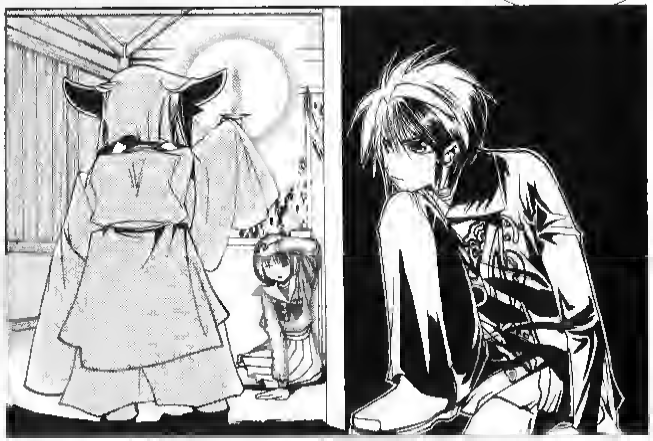

!!
OH NO, YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE..

BLUSH
OK, I GET IT NOW
WAIT BECAME ONE... AS IN... OH MY GOSH ONE, AS IN...
THE MISUNDER-STANDINGS BETWEEN THE SUN, THE MOON AND THE STARS..?!
BUT WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
I THINK YOU ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION
YOU MUST NOT DOUBT YOURSELF ANY LONGER. I KNOW THAT THE PEOPLE WILL SUPPORT AND LIFT YOU UP...
YOU CAN DO THIS, MY CHILD...
YOU CAN DISPEL THE CLOUDS OF MISUNDER-STANDING AND HATRED THAT HAVE CURDLED AND THICK-ENED OVER TIME.
AND YOU CAN BRING BACK THE LIGHT TO THE SUN, THE MOON AND THE STARS AS WELL. I KNOW YOU CAN.

YOU'RE HER?! YOU'RE THE MINISTER OF THE LEFT'S PRINCESS? YOU... YOU'RE MY ANCESTOR?!
FOR 1,000 YEARS NOW... I'VE BEEN CRY-ING OUT TO ALL THE PRINCESSES WHO INHERITED MY BLOOD.
W-WHO ARE YOU..?
BUT ALL MY CRIES FELL ON DEAF EARS...
THEY ALL BECAME LOST TO TALES MADE UP AFTER THE FACT. THEY ALL LOST OUT TO THEIR OWN FEARS AND NOT ONE OF THEM CAME NEARLY AS FAR AS YOU HAVE.
OH MY GOODNESS... THEN, THIS ROOM WAS IT YOUR ROOM...?
AND THE ROOM WHERE I BECAME ONE WITH HIM AS WELL...
YES, THIS IS MY ROOM.

...PROMISED TO REUNITE AGAIN IN A FUTURE LIFE.
WHICH AFTER 1,000 FULL MOONS PASSED...
THE TREASURES OF THE DEMONS ARE HIDDEN...
FOR BENEATH THE RAINBOW THAT SHINES AT DAWN
PRINCESS, PRINCESS, WHY DO YOU SMILE?

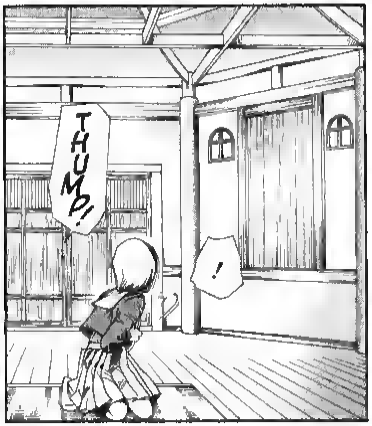
AH!
WAIT... PLEASE, DON'T GO AWAY!
THERE'S SO MUCH MORE I WANT TO ASK YOU...!

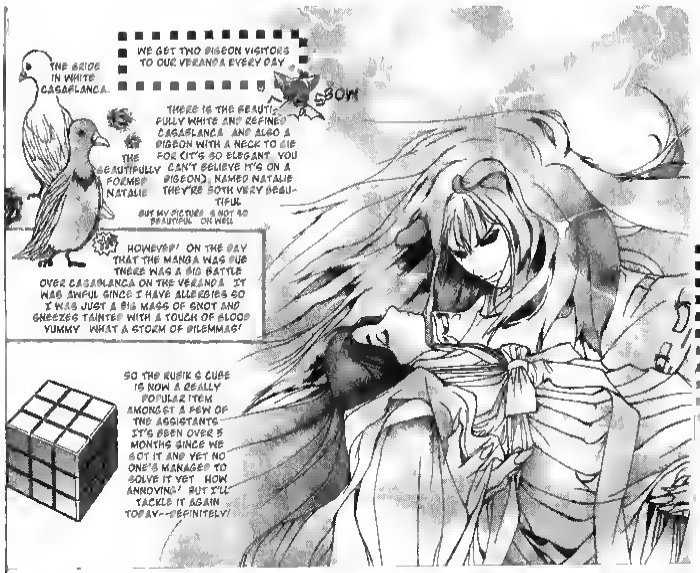


THAT SONG. IT'S. IT'S THE LAST PART OF THE SONG...
ISN'T IT?! OH, MY GOD!

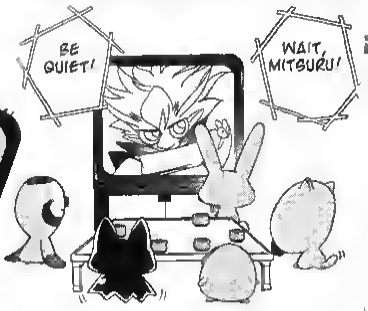
THUMP!
THUD!

AH!
すっ...


THUMP!
!


THE BRIDE IN WHITE CASABLANCA
WE GET TWO PIGEON VISITORS TO OUR VERANDA EVERY DAY
BOW
THERE IS THE BEAUTIFULLY WHITE AND REFINED CASABLANCA AND ALSO A PIGEON WITH A NECK TO DIE FOR IT'S SO ELEGANT. YOU CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S ON A PIGEON. NAMED NATALIE THE FORMER THEY'RE BOTH VERY BEAUTIFUL
BUT MY PICTURE IS NOT SO BEAUTIFUL ON WELL
HOWEVER! ON THE DAY THAT THE MANGA WAS DUE THERE WAS A BIG BATTLE OVER CASABLANCA ON THE VERANDA IT WAS AWFUL SINCE I HAVE ALLERGIES SO I WAS JUST A BIG MASS OF SNOT AND SNEEZES TAINTED WITH A TOUCH OF BLOOD YUMMY WHAT A STORM OF DILEMMAS!
SO THE RUBIK'S CUBE IS NOW A REALLY POPULAR ITEM AMONGST A FEW OF THE ASSISTANTS IT'S BEEN OVER 5 MONTHS SINCE WE GOT IT AND YET NO ONE'S MANAGED TO SOLVE IT YET HOW ANNOYING! BUT I'LL TACKLE IT AGAIN TODAY--DEFINITELY!

A typical scene at the work place.

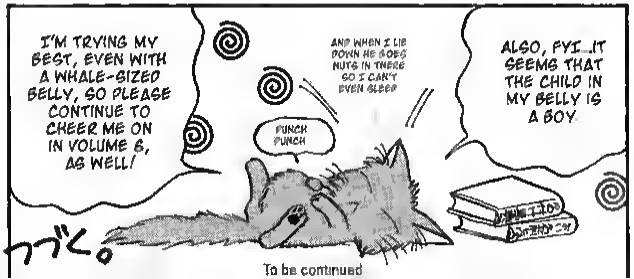


AT LUNCH WE LIKE TO WATCH MOVIES TOGETHER

AFTER WORD

PLEASE EXCUSE MY APPEARANCE, BUT I'M JUST A LITTLE PREGNANT, YOU SEE
I'M DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF AUGUST I'M STUCK WITH A BIG BELLY LIKE THIS IN THE MIDDLE OF SUMMER OF ALL TIMES TALK ABOUT BEING HOT! (CRY)
HELLO EVERYONE LONG TIME NO SEE, IT'S MATSUDA AGAIN

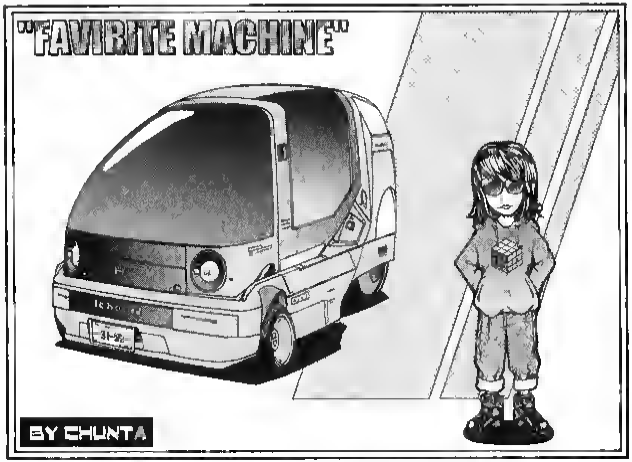
Misoka-san's Birthday
MARCH 21ST IS WRONG
MARCH 11TH IS RIGHT
IF YOU HAVE A FIRST EDITION OF THE COMIC, PLEASE SWITCH IT OVER IN YOUR HEADS, OKAY, BECAUSE I'M HAVING THEM FIX IT IN THE NEXT PRESSING
BY THE WAY, I HAVE A RETRACTION TO MAKE FOR VOLUME 4.
THE ONE LISTED IN THE ORIGINAL RUN IN ASUKA COMICS, AND THE ONE ON MY WEBSITE IS MARCH 11TH, SO I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO FACE UP TO MY MISTAKE (LAUGH)


I'M TRYING MY BEST, EVEN WITH A WHALE-SIZED BELLY, SO PLEASE CONTINUE TO CHEER ME ON IN VOLUME 6, AS WELL!
AND WHEN I LIE DOWN HE GOES NUTS IN THERE SO I CAN'T EVEN SLEEP
PUNCH PUNCH
ALSO, FYI...IT SEEMS THAT THE CHILD IN MY BELLY IS A BOY
つづく。
To be continued

Crescent Moon

Preview: Volume 6

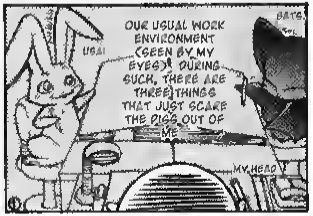
IN A DESPERATE MOVE, NOZUMO AND THE MOONLIGHT BANDITS SEND HOKUTO AND MUTSURA A RANSOM NOTE, TELLING THEM TO BRING THE STOLEN TEARDROP OF THE MOON TO A PREARRANGED LOCATION, OR HOKUTO'S FIANCÉ WILL BE KILLED. MEANWHILE, MAHIRU IS GUIDED BY A FRIENDLY SPIRIT TO LAKE BIWA, THE RESTING PLACE OF THE SEVENTH AND FINAL TEARDROP OF THE MOON–BUT IT IS A PLACE WHERE DANGER AWAITS AS WELL. NOW MAHIRU AND HER COMPANIONS MUST FIND A WAY TO BREAK THE MAGICAL SEAL PROTECTING THE TEARDROP...BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

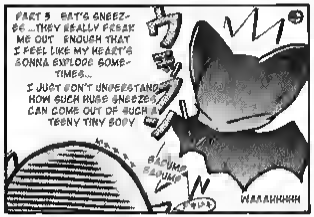


THE TALE OF THE DEVIL'S TRIANGLE

SORRY THAT IT'S KINDA PETTY

USUALLY IT'S BECAUSE SHE'S MANAGED TO MESS UP ON SOMETHING
WHEEEEE!
HUH? WHAT?
NUMBER 2 USAI'S SCREAMS? WHISPER?
SOMETIMES I HEAR AN AWFUL SCREAM COME FROM THE DESK ON MY LEFT AND I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON
TWITCH


OUR USUAL WORK ENVIRONMENT (SEEN BY MY EYES) DURING SUCH, THERE ARE THREE THINGS THAT JUST SCARE THE PIGS OUT OF ME
USAI
BATS
MY HEAD


FACT 3 BAT'S SNEEZES...THEY REALLY FREAK ME OUT ENOUGH THAT I FEEL LIKE MY HEART'S GONNA EXPLODE SOMETIMES...
I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW SUCH HUGE SNEEZES CAN COME OUT OF SUCH A TEENY TINY BODY
BACHOO
BACHOO
WAAAHHHH

SINCE IT'S RIGHT BY MY DESK, SOMETIMES WHEN IT RINGS IT REALLY SCARES ME
NUMBER 1 THE PHONE
SCRITCH SCRITCH SCRITCH
RING RING, ---
TWITCHIE!

OKAY, THAT'S ALL FOLKS